

Turkey denies U.S. buildup for Gulf

ANKARA (R) — Turkey Monday denied a West German press report that the United States had sent extra warplanes here for possible intervention in the Iran-Iraq war. A senior government official said some F-111 bombers were currently in Turkey for a routine bombing exercise at a base near Konya, central Anatolia. Referring to a report in the West German weekly Der Spiegel that three squadrons of planes were here to prepare for possible intervention in the Gulf, he said: "It's not true." The official said the F-111s were flying from the giant Incirlik Base in southern Turkey where two squadrons of the 401st tactical fighter wing are permanently based. These changed last year to F-16 Fighting Falcons from F-4 Phantoms, meaning an increase to 48 from 36 aircraft since a squadron of Falcons comprises 24. The official would not say how long the F-111s would be in Turkey.

Jordan Times

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Gulf war escalation worries Saudis

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia Monday voiced concern over recent military developments in the region and said it would use all its potential to defend its territory. Information Minister Ali Hassan Al Shaer quoted King Fahd as saying after a regular cabinet meeting: "There is no doubt the current military events (are) a source of concern," the official Saudi Press Agency reported. "The situation has negative impacts on the security and stability of the region," King Fahd said. The Saudi monarch was apparently referring to recent escalation of the Iran-Iraq war, with Iranian forces launching attacks on Basra, Iraq's second largest city. "Although our policy is not to cause any damage to any country in the region we would defend our holy cities and territories using all the potential we have," King Fahd was quoted as saying.

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Rifai meets with audit bureau chief

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Monday received the audit bureau president Dr. Hashem Al Dabbas and discussed a number of issues related to revising the bureau's law with the aim of developing its work. Also on Monday Mr. Rifai received the Amman Development Corporation (ADC) President Sami Al Rashid. During the meeting they discussed a number of issues related to the ADC affairs.

Shepherd finds 26 kg of opium

AMMAN (Petra) — A shepherd has found 26 kilograms of unprocessed opium which were buried east of Mafraq city. The concerned authorities have started investigations into the matter.

Abdul Meguid meets Jordanian students

CAIRO (Petra) — The Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Dr. Esmat Abdul Meguid, on Monday met a delegation of students from the University of Jordan who are currently on a visit to Cairo. During the meeting Dr. Abdul Meguid explained the principles and goals of Egypt's foreign policy which is based on support of Arab causes. He also spoke about the development of close relations between Jordan and Egypt, praising the continuing coordination between His Majesty King Hussein and President Hosni Mubarak.

Envoy says U.S. seeks Gulf stability

CAIRO (R) — U.S. Ambassador to Egypt, Frank Wisner said Monday that Washington's arms sale to Iran had been a one-time affair and his country sought stability in the Gulf region. "We want there to be an end to the war between Iran and Iraq. We want stability in the Gulf and we particularly want our friends in this region, to be secure," Mr. Wisner said.

Nigerian leader not to attend OIC summit

LAGOS (R) — Nigerian leader General Ibrahim Babangida, whose country is sharply divided over membership of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), will not attend the group's summit next week in Kuwait, an official spokesman said Monday.

Bologna blast trial adjourned

BOLOGNA, Italy (AP) — The trial of 20 people charged with the bombing of the Bologna train station opened Monday with a brief procedural discussion and then was adjourned until March 2. Only two of the defendants charged in the Aug. 2, 1980, bombing that killed 85 and wounded 200 were in court.

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Iraq says sizeable Iranian attack on Basra repelled

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Monday its forces had repelled a sizeable overnight Iranian attack south east of Basra, inflicting heavy losses and preventing the Iranians from gaining territory.

A High Command communique said eight Iranian Revolutionary Guards brigades launched the attack at 7:30 p.m. Sunday night (1630 GMT Sunday) against positions held by three Iraqi brigades south east of Basra — Iraq's second largest city with a population of one million. The communique said: "Our forces remained steadfast in their positions harvesting the constant waves of the attacking forces (and) having full control of the battlefield."

The communique said the Iranians were continuing their attacks although they had only 30,000 to 40,000 men of the Revolutionary Guards left of the force which initiated the attack. It did not say how many there were.

Mubarak: No Egyptian troops in Iraq

KUWAIT (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said the dispatch of regular Egyptian troops to Iraq would need the approval of the Egyptian parliament, a newspaper reported Monday.

In an interview published in the newspaper Al Anba, Mr. Mubarak also denied that any Egyptian government forces were presently fighting alongside Iraq. He also reported Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was confident about the situation on the battlefield in face of the present Iranian ground offensive and that Egypt was not supplying "offensive weapons or warplanes," to Iraq.

In a separate interview, Mr. Mubarak said that Iraq had all the offensive arms it needed for the confrontation with Iran.

"We do not have a single Egyptian soldier fighting outside Egypt whether in Iraq or anywhere else, because as president, I cannot send Egyptian troops

originally. The communique said Iraqi warplanes flew 390 sorties in support of ground forces and against Iranian troops, while helicopter gunships flew 166 combat missions. It said the warplanes attacked the Iranian towns and cities of Dezful, Tabriz, Estahbar, Qom, Kermanshah (Bakhtaran), Shahabad (Islamabad Gharb) and a military camp and ammunition depots in the north western town of Saqqez.

It said Iraqi naval units destroyed and sank an Iranian command ship, without giving further details. Residents of Basra said the government was assisting people wanting to seek safety outside the range of Iranian artillery, which

has bombarded the city of one million population almost daily for several months. Diplomats in Baghdad said foreign companies had temporarily sent most of their staff to the capital.

President Saddam Hussein presided over a joint meeting Sunday night of the Revolutionary Command Council and the regional command of the ruling Baath Party.

The Iraqi News Agency INA said they discussed the fighting on the central and southern war fronts and analysed military and political aspects of the battles. It was Mr. Hussein's second major review of the fighting in two nights.

INA said he talked by telephone Sunday night with King Hussein and Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak.

The Iraqi leader "reaffirmed Iraq's ability to destroy the evil intentions of Iranian rulers against Iraq," the agency reported.

On the southern front, Brig.-Gen. Abed Shinar Al Rabbat, a divisional commander with the Third Army Corps defending Basra, said Iraqi troops had "completed their preparations to destroy the Iranian forces, which thought they were able to threaten the independence of Iraq."

A high-ranking military official Sunday denied Tehran reports that Iranian troops had reached the outskirts of Basra.

Brig. Rabbat said his troops Sunday night repulsed three Iranian attempts to break through their defences east of Basra.

"Our forces destroyed 11 Khomenei (Revolutionary) Guards divisions and four regular army brigades, including an armoured one from Division 29," he said.

Iran said Monday it had launched a new phase in its drive towards the southern Iraqi port of Basra.

A Tehran military communique claimed Iranian troops launched a new phase in the Karbala-5 offensive, "smashing through" an Iraqi line on a broad axis Sunday night and crossing the Jasin River 10 kilometres east of Basra.

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On Saturday, the West German magazine Der Spiegel, citing unidentified Egyptian sources, said that high-ranking U.S. naval officers met in Egypt last week with Egyptian military and civilian leaders to discuss contingency plans in case Iranian troops succeeded in capturing the strategically important Iraqi port city of Basra.

Referring to an unspecified number of Egyptians held by Iran as prisoners of war captured in the course of the 6-year-old war with Iraq, Mr. Mubarak said these were "ordinary citizens" who had gone to Iraq seeking jobs and had joined the Iraqi forces as volunteers.

"The Egyptian constitution does not prevent Egyptians from travelling outside the country," he said. "We will do our best to get them back."

He asserted Egypt was not sending any "offensive weapons or warplanes," to Iraq.

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PRINCE HASSAN DEPARTS: His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah is sworn in as Regent Monday prior to the departure of Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, to London. The Crown Prince was seen off at Amman airport by Prince Abdullah, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi.

Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akel Al Fayez, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Cabinet members, senior civil and military officials as well as the British ambassador in Amman.

Kahane tours Muslim Quarter of Jerusalem in show of intimidation

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Jewish extremist leader and Knesset member Rabbi Meir Kahane toured the Muslim Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City Monday in what he described as "sovereignty march" to show that all of Israel belongs to the Jews.

Dressed in black, the American born Kahane strolled down the streets and pointing to Palestinian children, Kahane said angrily: "The Jews are frightened to come here, but these people are here, these terrorists of tomorrow."

Kahane was followed by as many as a dozen Israeli soldiers at one time during his 45-minute walk. A few of the soldiers scuffled briefly with some Palestinians after asking them to show their identity cards. But otherwise the tour was peaceful.

About 1.4 million Palestinians and more than 50,000 Jewish settlers live in the West Bank and occupied Gaza Strip which Israel occupied in the 1967 Middle East war. Some 120,000 Palestinians live in occupied Jerusalem.

In a separate development Israeli authorities Monday said they were extending by four days the two-week-old closure of a Palestinian university in the occupied West Bank to prevent anti-Israeli demonstrations on campus.

Authorities shut the 3,000-student An Najah University near Nablus to stop unrest at what has long been claimed as a centre for pro-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) activists.

Military officials said the university, which had been due to reopen Monday, would stay shut until Jan. 22 due to intelligence information of planned anti-Israeli protests.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin recently told Jewish settlers that Israeli authorities would no longer tolerate activities on Palestinian campuses by the PLO.

Last month, the most violent wave of anti-Israeli unrest in years erupted in the West Bank and occupied Gaza after Israeli troops shot dead two Palestinian students at Birzeit University during a protest against new army roadblocks.

Two Palestinian youths were killed in subsequent demonstrations and several Israelis were injured by stones thrown by Arabs.

A university official denied that students had planned demonstrations.

Israeli officer injured
An Israeli army officer was

injured Monday when Palestinians attacked with stones at an army patrol outside the Balata refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, security sources said.

They said five Palestinians were arrested Monday after they stoned a vehicle driven by Jewish settlers outside the Balata camp near Nablus.

The settlers left their car and fired shots in the air before security forces dispersed the protesters with tear gas, the sources said.

Scuffle erupts in Knesset

Meanwhile, a violent scuffle erupted Monday in Israel's parliament between left- and right-wing legislators in the presence of three delegates from the Soviet Union.

The clash began when four members of the nationalist Tehiya Party and the religious Morasha Party pushed toward the Soviet team in the Knesset (parliament) cafeteria with signs reading "you are not wanted here" and "don't come here until the Soviets let the Jews out."

The Soviets, members of the Soviet Peace Committee, were accompanied by several left-wing legislators, including Communist Party member Charlie Blon.

Spadolini urges support for West Bank plan

ROME (R) — Italian Defence Minister Giovanni Spadolini said Monday that Western Europe should support plans by Jordan to develop the economy of the occupied West Bank.

Mr. Spadolini issued a statement on the Jordanian plan, which received Italian support last week, shortly before leaving for a three day visit to Israel.

His trip follows visits here in the past 10 days by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and King Hussein.

Mr. Spadolini said Jordan's billion-dollar, five-year plan to develop the occupied territories deserved the full support of the West.

His talks with Peres, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir,

President Chaim Herzog and West Bank Palestinian leaders would focus on efforts to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Spadolini, considered here to be pro-Israeli, will also receive an honorary degree from Tel Aviv University "in recognition of his efforts to fight terrorism."

27 leaders accept OIC invitation

KUWAIT (R) — A top Kuwaiti official said Monday only 27 of 45 heads of state invited to attend the Islamic summit here in a week's time had so far accepted.

The head of the summit organising committee, Public Works Minister Abdul Rahman Ibrahim Al Houti, said 35 countries would be represented at the summit of the 46-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

OIC members include Palestine, for whom the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat is expected to attend.

They also include Afghanistan, but the Soviet-backed government has had its membership suspended and a leader of the rebel Muslim Mujahadeen was invited instead as an observer.

Mr. Houti, quoted by the official Kuwait News Agency KUNA, stressed the three-day summit would go ahead as planned on Jan. 26.

KUNA, which did not name the Islamic leaders confirming attendance, quoted him as saying "Kuwait received the approval of 27 heads of state to attend the summit."

Indicating it was possible others might still accept, it quoted Mr. Houti as saying "Kuwait did not receive any official apology from

any OIC member-country for not attending the summit."

Iraq, which opposed holding the summit in Kuwait because of the emirate's support for Iraq, has said it definitely would not attend.

Tehran also warned that Kuwait's proximity to the conflict — the northern Gulf state lies only miles from the southern battle front — made it too dangerous a venue for a summit.

President Hafiz Al Assad of Syria and Col. Muammar Qadhafi of Libya have backed Iran in the war and were long considered unlikely to attend, diplomats say.

Both have submitted topics for the agenda and so were expected to send lower-ranking delegations. Syria wants to discuss terrorism and Libya has listed American "aggression."

Morocco's King Hassan, who hosted the last Islamic summit in Casablanca in 1984, was among leading Arab leaders expected to stay away after he came under fire for holding exploratory peace talks with Israel several months ago.

Meanwhile Kuwait Monday suspended all flights from trouble-plagued Beirut airport until the end of the Islamic summit, Beirut airport sources said.

The sources said the decision, apparently a security precaution, was relayed to Beirut airport by

the Kuwaiti Civil Aviation Authority but gave no other details.

Syria: No conciliation with Egypt

In Damascus, Syria Monday rejected calls for conciliation with Egypt, saying it would continue to resist the U.S.-sponsored Camp David accords.

Commenting to the Islamic summit conference scheduled to open in Kuwait next Monday, state radio said: With the approach of the summit, there is much talk about settlement of differences and opening a new chapter, particularly in inter-Arab relations.

In an apparent reference to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's remarks in an interview on Saturday in the United Arab Emirates daily Al Itihad, the radio said:

"Sweet words and sentiments are not enough... We in Syria have basic differences which could not be relinquished despite all mediations, advice and preaching."

Mr. Mubarak said in the interview he would shake hands with President Assad and Col. Qadhafi if they went to the Islamic summit, which he has said he will attend.

Gulf war tops OIC summit agenda, page 2

Kreisky attacks successors

VIENNA (R) — Former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, unleashed a political storm Monday by critical attacks on his successors in the Socialist Party (SPOE), Chancellor Franz Vranitzky and party chairman Fred Sinowatz.

Dr. Kreisky, SPOE Chancellor from 1970 to 1983, accused Vranitzky in the weekly Profil of pandering to the bourgeoisie and Sinowatz — chancellor from 1983 to 1986 — of deception.

"We haven't seen any results from Vranitzky yet," Dr. Kreisky said in an interview published in Monday's edition of the magazine. "He has only done away with things so far, he has only fulfilled the wishes of the middle class."

Dr. Kreisky, 75, resigned as honorary SPOE president on Thursday after news that Alois Mock, leader of the conservative People's Party (OEPV), would be foreign minister in a new "grand

coalition" government of SPOE and OEPV.

Dr. Kreisky told Profil Austria needed a Socialist foreign minister to counter-balance President Kurt Waldheim, whose election last year was supported by the OEPV.

Dr. Kreisky accused Sinowatz of deception regarding SPOE's intentions in negotiations over the Foreign Ministry.

"I am not receiving Sinowatz, I will not even talk to him now, because he deceived me, because he tried to deceive me. He is the man who told me (on Tuesday) 'nothing has happened, don't get upset.' That is a swindle."

Vranitzky, a former banker whose economic policies have alienated many in the SPOE, ended a coalition with the small Freedom Party (FPÖ) last autumn and called new elections after a shift to the right in the FPÖ leadership.

Moscow pledges to build on summit achievements

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev told the "group of six" nations Monday that he was determined to build on the achievements of his Reykjavik summit with President Reagan in the coming year.

Mr. Gorbachev was replying to a new year call for renewed superpower arms control talks by Mexico, Argentina, Tanzania, India, Greece and Sweden, which banded together in 1984 to pressure the nuclear powers into disarmament.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze handed the message on Mr. Gorbachev's behalf to visiting Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Natwar Singh, TASS news agency reported.

In the message, Mr. Gorbachev said it was vital to ensure that

"concrete outlines" for disarmament laid down at the summit did not become blurred.

"The Soviet Union — and I can firmly assure you that this is so — will continue to press resolutely for advance to be made from positions reached in Reykjavik... for a sharp reduction and subsequent elimination of all nuclear weapons," he said.

At their meeting last October, Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev came close to agreeing a sweeping disarmament programme but stumbled over U.S. "Star Wars" plans for space defence.

Mr. Gorbachev also told the group of six he shared their regret that lack of response from Washington had forced Moscow to decide to end its unilateral nuclear test moratorium on the first U.S. test in 1987.

White House reportedly ignored string of warnings about Iran arms sales

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The New York Times Monday published a secret staff report of the Senate Intelligence Committee which said the White House ignored a year-long string of warnings about its arms sales to Iran.

The newspaper quotes the report as saying the Reagan administration was given a number of internal warnings the arms sales were based on faulty information, dependent on unreliable middlemen and likely to fall short of intended goals.

The report concluded the administration violated several laws and procedures for monitoring undercover operations, the newspaper said.

The document has not been made public officially. President Reagan had urged previously that the committee make its report public.

The New York Times quoted David Holliday, a spokesman for the committee, as saying the disclosure of the contents of the report was irresponsible.

He said some staff members objected to the report because they felt its conclusions were not supported by the evidence and because there were inaccuracies in it. He declined to identify the inaccuracies.

Mr. Holliday told the newspaper the intelligence committee is rewriting the report and would turn it over to the Senate Select Committee investigating the affair.

The report details warnings to the White House by former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane and others that the Iran venture was risky.

It says Mr. McFarlane warned in December 1985 that the initiative was not working and that Manucher Ghorbanifar, the Iranian who acted as middleman in the deal, "could not be trusted."

The report also said the intelligence committee has "obtained no specific evidence" that anyone beyond former National Security Adviser John Poindexter and his dismissed aide, Lt.-Col. Oliver North, knew of the controversial "plan" to divert Iranian arms profits to the contra

rebels of Nicaragua. But the report says the committee cannot rule out the possibility that higher-up officials knew of the plan, the newspaper reported.

Investigations into the secret U.S. arms sales to Iran and diversion of funds to Nicaraguan rebels start in earnest next month and are expected to take up most of 1987.

The probe into the deal, first revealed two months ago, is being conducted by two Watergate-type special committees in Congress, an independent prosecutor and President Reagan's own review board.

They are looking at various aspects of the sale of weapons to Iran through Israeli middlemen and the funneling of some of the proceeds to help the U.S.-backed contra rebels fighting to topple the leftist Nicaraguan government.

The various investigations are progressing as follows: — The presidential review board named by Mr. Reagan to investigate the role of his National Security Council will be the first to finish. The executive order establishing the board, headed by former Texas Sen. John Tower, gave it until Jan. 29 to complete its work.

A spokesman said the board, with a staff of about 15, had talked to about 25 people and would perhaps talk to 25 more before writing its report and delivering it to Mr. Reagan, who has promised to make it public.

— Sen. Daniel Inouye, chairman of the special Senate committee, has said his panel is expected to take until autumn to complete its probe.

— Congresswoman Lee Hamilton, chairman of the special House of Representatives committee, has given no timetable for his inquiries.

— The independent prosecutor, Lawrence Walsh, is still getting organized, and has no deadline to report.

— The military toppled a civilian government in 1980, returning power to civilians, with the new constitution, after November 1983 elections.

Mr. Ecevit, three times prime minister in the 1970s, said that while some military leaders were not keen to become involved in affairs of state "with this constitution they are forced to get involved in politics."

Mr. Ecevit was sentenced in his absence to a jail term of 11 months and 20 days by a court at the western town of Bornova last month, for violating a ban on his involvement in party politics until 1992. He has said he was informed of the conviction only three days ago.

Under an article in the constitution he could be banned for life from politics if his appeal is rejected.

Mr. Ecevit faces about 100 similar charges arising from speeches he made at DLP rallies during a by-election campaign.

He criticised state radio and television (TRT) for calling him a convict in its news reports and said it should have made clear what his previous convictions were.

Mr. Ecevit was twice jailed during military rule between 1980-83 for violating restrictions on former politicians.

Kidnappers of German 'seek TWA suspect's freedom'

BONN (R) — The kidnappers of a West German businessman in Beirut appear to have taken him as a hostage to win the freedom of a suspected Lebanese hijacker arrested last week in Frankfurt, a senior West German politician said Monday.

Hans Stercken, chairman of parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, said the unknown kidnappers had seized Rudolf Cordes on Saturday in an attempt to prevent the possible extradition of hijack suspect Mohammed Ali Hamadei to the United States.

Cordes is the first West German to have been kidnapped in the war-torn Lebanese capital.

The U.S. Justice Department said Sunday it had agreed not to seek the death penalty for Hamadei, who is suspected to have taken part in the June 1985 hijacking of a TWA airliner to Beirut, thus clearing the way for his extradition from West Germany.

Bonn refuses to extradite suspects to countries where they would face execution if found guilty of a crime.

The United States wants to try Hamadei for air piracy and the murder of a passenger, U.S. Navy diver Robert Stethem, who was killed during the 17-day hijacking.

Mr. Stercken told a radio interviewer he wanted the authorities to examine Syria's role in the abduction of Cordes, the manager of the Hoechst chemical company in Lebanon.

He said the speed and efficiency with which the kidnappers had seized Cordes so soon after the arrest of Hamadei suggested support and encouragement for the assassins, who have not yet made any demands for the businessman's release.

In Beirut, Shi'ite Muslim militia sources told Reuters their men were searching for Cordes.

In West Beirut, militia sources said Hamadei was thought to be related to a senior security official in Hizbollah (Party of God), a hardline pro-Iranian organisation.

There was no immediate verification of the report. Hizbollah normally refuses to identify its senior officials by name.

Militia sources said they believed a car was used to block the highway from the airport to Beirut as Cordes was being driven to the hotel.

As his driver slowed down, unidentified gunmen wrenched open the black Mercedes and dragged the businessman out. He was bundled into another vehicle which sped away into the maze of tightly-packed houses in the Shi'ite suburbs.

Last Tuesday, French freelance photographer Roger Anquet was abducted by gunmen while covering the latest visit to Beirut by British church envoy Terry Waite, who is seeking the release of foreign hostages here.

Gulf war expected to dominate OIC summit

ABU DHABI (R) — Anxious as they may be to see the Iran-Iraq war end, leaders of the Islamic world meeting in Kuwait next week will find it hard to silence the guns booming within earshot of their luxurious conference centre.

Not only has Iran said it will boycott the Jan. 26-28 summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), it has also said it will ignore its resolutions.

Yet, leaders of the 46-member OIC will again attempt to end a conflict that has killed or wounded an estimated one million people and disrupted economic activity throughout the region, playing havoc with oil and shipping interests.

Also in Kuwait, just 80 kilometres from the warfront and whose residents can hear the sound of heavy artillery at night, will be United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez Cuellar. He has said he would be ready to fly to both Baghdad and Tehran if such visits would help.

But as its forces continued attacks on Iraq's second largest city of Basra, Iran last weekend rejected the U.N. Security Council's latest call for peace and again insisted on the removal of the Iraqi government.

Kuwait officials said Monday 27 heads of state had so far confirmed they would attend the summit, but it was not known whether they included the Iraqi leader. He has been busy visiting the warfront and chairing military and political meetings in Baghdad.

Diplomats in the Gulf say Iran finds itself increasingly isolated within the OIC and sees little hope of prevailing in a diplomatic solution without a dramatic battlefield breakthrough.

Western military analysts say the Iranian attack on Basra in southern Iraq could prove crucial. Tehran said the aim of its offensive, launched on Jan. 9, was to destroy Iraq's war machine.

Kuwait, opposed by Iran as a summit venue on the grounds that it backs Iraq in the war, appears to have been singled out in recent Iranian attacks on shipping in the Gulf, with four tankers carrying Kuwaiti oil hit in the past two weeks.

Iran has repeatedly rebuffed peace efforts by the U.N., the OIC and other organisations. It dismissed a four-point plan approved by an Islamic Peace Committee two months ago and refused to receive an OIC envoy.

The plan called for an immediate ceasefire, the exchange of prisoners, a halt to violations of international agreements and the appointment of a body to determine war guilt.

The nine-member committee will report on its peace efforts to the Kuwait summit.

Diplomatic sources speculate that in the absence of Iran, Arab states may try to persuade its closest Arab allies Syria and Libya to distance themselves from Tehran.

Both have channelled Soviet arms to Iran and lent diplomatic support at Arab and international fora, the sources say.

Libya's leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi, currently preoccupied with the fighting in northern Chad, is considered a doubtful starter for the summit and so too is Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

But diplomats still expect Libya and Syria to send delegations. Col. Qadhafi, reported to be unhappy about Iran's clandestine arms deals with the United States, called the latest escalation in the Gulf war "crazy."

Diplomats say the Arab states will not want to isolate non-Arab Iran and risk damaging future chances for dialogue. Their approach is likely to remain conciliatory.

The Gulf Arab states either postponed or cancelled joint naval manoeuvres scheduled in the Gulf last month out of a desire by at least some of them not to irritate Iran ahead of the summit, one diplomatic source said.

Kuwait, estimated by diplomats to have provided Iraq with more than \$10 billion in the first five years of the war, has made clear it wants Iran to attend the summit, the source said.

Libya's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah said Islamic leaders must turn words into action. "Any failure means there will be no more Islamic conferences," he declared.

Israel considers downgrading ties with S. Africa

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel is considering a ban on visits by official delegations to South Africa as a protest against apartheid, a government official said Monday.

But Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir indicated that Israel's sanctions against South Africa would be limited in their scope. "We're not enthused by the system of sanctions which the West wants to impose on South Africa. There is a big Jewish community there and that is a major consideration for us," Israel Radio quoted Shamir as telling a parliamentary committee debating the issue.

Shamir expressed concern that any Israeli measures might trigger a backlash against South Africa's 120,000 Jews.

The government official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Israel's "whole relations with South Africa are now being reviewed by the Foreign Ministry and by Shamir."

He said the cabinet was expected to debate a series of proposals drawn up by a panel of experts, but gave no date for the discussion and declined to elaborate on the proposals.

The suggestion to ban delegations follows talks held in Washington by Foreign Ministry Director-General Yossi Beilin who said nearly everyone he met raised the issue of Israel's 38-year-old relations with South Africa.

The United States has informally asked Israel and other allies to cut trade with the white supremacist regime. Israel is under pressure to act before President Ronald Reagan's April 1 deadline to submit to Congress a list of allies complying

Dublin condemns Israel's offer of money for killing UNIFIL soldier

DUBLIN (Agencies) — Irish Defence Minister Patrick O'Toole has condemned as "conscience money" an Israeli compensation offer for the killing of an Irish U.N. peace-keeping force soldier in Lebanon.

As a diplomatic row over the soldier's death stretched into its second week, Mr. O'Toole told reporters Monday that he took "a very dim view of this way of trying to soften the blow."

Israel offered the compensation last weekend after admitting responsibility for the death of Corporal Dermot McLaughlin, the 21st Irish soldier to die while serving with UNIFIL troops in Lebanon.

Press reports in Ireland referred to a payment of 35,000 Irish pounds (\$50,000).

Israeli Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Levy said the incident was damaging to Israel. The U.N. force commander, Gen. Gustav Haegglund, said the killing was the latest in a series of random outbreaks of firing on U.N. positions by Israel and its local South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia allies.

Last week, Irish Foreign Minister Peter Barry summoned the Israeli ambassador to Dublin to deliver "a strong and trenchant complaint" over the killing.

Now the compensation offer has provoked further Irish outrage, with Mr. O'Toole saying: "The manner in which the offer was made has annoyed me. They could have found more confidential and private ways of doing it."

An Irish Foreign Ministry spokesman said it was a private matter between Israel and the dead soldier's family, who have declined all comment on the move, initiated by the Israeli embassy in London.

Ireland is reviewing its UNIFIL participation and Mr. Barry is due to report to the cabinet Tuesday on the country's 740-member contingent.

A sudden Irish pull-out is not expected, especially as a meeting of the U.N. Security Council decided last week to renew the UNIFIL mandate.

Mr. O'Toole told reporters at the weekend: "We have always acted responsibly and I don't think pulling out overnight would be acting responsibly."

An Israeli government official confirmed Monday that Israel has offered \$50,000 in compensation to the family of the Irish soldier.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said offer was made informally and said the family gave no immediate response.

Girlfriend attacks ban on seeing Vanunu

TEL AVIV (AP) — The American girlfriend of an Israeli technician charged with revealing this country's atomic secrets said Israel was undemocratic for refusing to let her visit him in prison, a newspaper reported Monday.

"It was an inhuman act which would be unacceptable in any democratic country like the one I come from," Judy Zimmet, 31, a nurse from Boston, told Yediot Ahronot.

Miss Zimmet said she felt "terrible" to be turned back from the prison where her boyfriend, Mordechai Vanunu, was awaiting trial on charges of espionage.

Yediot quoted her as saying she loved Vanunu and the two had discussed marriage. "We have to talk," she said. "I feel my life has come to a halt because of the separation forced upon us."

Miss Zimmet, who arrived here several days ago, said Israeli authorities had gone back on a promise to allow her to see Vanunu, Yediot reported.

The Israeli ban on her visit appeared to be part of a punishment against Vanunu for revealing to reporters that he was abducted by Israeli agents in Rome. Vanunu wrote the message on the palm of his hand and flashed it to reporters en route to court on Dec. 21.

Meanwhile, Vanunu's lawyer Amnon Zichrony told the Associated Press that members of his client's family expressed concern for his health as he entered the 17th day of a water-only hunger strike.

Zichrony said Vanunu's family had failed to persuade him to stop the strike, initially launched to protest the withdrawal of his privileges by prison authorities

after he communicated with the reporters.

The supreme court ordered the authorities to restore some of his privileges but he has been completely isolated from other prisoners inmates, Zichrony said.

Vanunu's brother, Asher, told the daily Haaretz: "We ask the state and the authorities to protect him and take him out of the isolation into which he was put."

Zichrony said Vanunu appeared to be in good health. He added that prison authorities had placed a camera in his cell to monitor his activities following reports that he was depressed and might try to commit suicide.

Vanunu faces charges of espionage, charges which carry a maximum death sentence, for exposing details of an Israeli atomic plant to the Sunday Times in London last year.

Ecevit: Turkey is still undemocratic

ANKARA (R) — Former Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit, facing a jail term for making political speeches, said Monday Turkey was still undemocratic and effectively under military control.

Talking to reporters after a solidarity visit to him by members of the Democratic Left Party (DLP), which is headed by his wife Rahsan, Mr. Ecevit said Turkey would never be seen as a country under civilian rule while the 1982 constitution was in effect.

"My opinion is that Turkey not only is an undemocratic country but also is not under civilian rule," Mr. Ecevit said.

The military toppled a civilian government in 1980, returning power to civilians, with the new constitution, after November 1983 elections.

Mr. Ecevit, three times prime minister in the 1970s, said that while some military leaders were not keen to become involved in affairs of state "with this constitution they are forced to get involved in politics."

Mr. Ecevit was sentenced in his absence to a jail term of 11 months and 20 days by a court at the western town of Bornova last month, for violating a ban on his involvement in party politics until 1992. He has said he was informed of the conviction only three days ago.

Under an article in the constitution he could be banned for life from politics if his appeal is rejected.

Mr. Ecevit faces about 100 similar charges arising from speeches he made at DLP rallies during a by-election campaign.

He criticised state radio and television (TRT) for calling him a convict in its news reports and said it should have made clear what his previous convictions were.

Mr. Ecevit was twice jailed during military rule between 1980-83 for violating restrictions on former politicians.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Tel. 651760.

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FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport, Tel. (09) 33000-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS: ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

06:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

07:00 Moscow (SU)

07:20 Cairo (RJ)

07:40 Jerusalem (RJ)

08:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

08:20 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

08:40 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)

09:00 New York, Vienna (RJ)

09:20 Paris, Athens (RJ)

09:40 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)

10:00 Istanbul (RJ)

NEWS IN BRIEF

GNP for 1986 rises to JD 1918.4m

AMMAN (Petra) — The Gross National Product (GNP) in Jordan was estimated at JD 1918.4 million at market prices in 1986, Director General of the General Statistics Department Abdul Hadi Alawin said on Monday. Dr. Alawin added that the GNP for the year 1985 was JD 1849.2 million, which included JD 236 million of net income from investments abroad. Dr. Alawin added that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) dropped from 131.5 per cent in November 1985 to 131.3 per cent in November 1986, a decrease of 2 per cent.

Cabinet okays training, exchange accord

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has approved a programme for the exchange of expertise and the training of technicians between Jordan and Egypt. The agreement for the programme was signed in Cairo on Dec. 25, 1986.

Jordan to attend Arab council meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the 42nd meeting of the Arab economic and social council due to be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Feb. 9 at ministerial level. The council is expected to discuss a number of subjects including a general report on the Arab economy over the past year, a working paper on trade links among Arab states and means of promoting this trade and recommendations passed by the general Arab conference on trade. The meetings are expected to last three days.

GUVS to set up park in Zarqa

ZARQA (Petra) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) has embarked on constructing a public entertainment park on a 10-dunum plot of land in Zarqa. The project is expected to cost JD 250,000.

Zarqa starts work on education offices

ZARQA (Petra) — The Ministry of Education has started constructing a new building to house the Department of Education in Zarqa Governorate. The project, expected to cost JD 250,000 is being implemented on a 1,500 square metre plot of land next to the government hospital. When completed, the complex will house offices and conference halls.



MILITARY MATTERS: Armed Forces Commander in Chief Gen. Sharif Zaid Iba Shaker (second from left), confers in his office Monday with Lieutenant General Jovan Matovic, an envoy of the Yugoslav defence minister. The meeting was attended by Army Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Fathi Abu Taleh (far left) and Yugoslav Ambassador to Jordan, Todor Bojadzovski. The Yugoslav envoy, who arrived Sunday, is expected to meet other Jordanian officials before his departure on Wednesday.

Jordan's test tube embryos doing well

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Four test-tube babies are expected to be born within the next few months in the first ever such medical event in the Kingdom, one gynaecologist said Monday.

The doctor, a member of a Jordanian team of gynaecologists who have initiated and performed the project, said that two sets of twin embryos were developing well under close medical supervision.

The two women are in a very good condition and embryo-genesis — the formation and development of the fetus — was encouraging and going ahead as planned, added the gynaecologist who asked not to be quoted by name until the four

babies have been born. To date, developments have been good and we expect the births to take place on schedule, he said. He declined to give the exact date of the expected birth of the two sets of twins who have undergone the same stages of development under the supervision of a fully-equipped centre especially set up for in vitro fertilisation operations.

"As far as the four embryos are concerned, the two cases are developing positively but we cannot reveal any further information until the births have taken place," the doctor said in an interview with the Jordan Times.

The medical team on the project will hold lectures and present research on their unique experiment in the Kingdom at a general medical congress which is due to be held in Amman during March, the gynaecologist said.

In vitro fertilisation has been developed world-wide over the past decade with traditional religious opposition declining over the years, especially in developing countries.

Several Arab countries have made substantial progress in this field and many test-tube babies have been born through in vitro fertilisation, the most effective means for sterile couples to have children.

The first Iraqi test-tube infant recently blew out his first birthday candle. The infant's mother, Mrs. Maha Zahed, had three artificial inseminations before she gave birth to Isam. Forty-eight hours after the third artificial insemination, Mrs. Zahed was pregnant. Successful test-tube baby experiments have also been performed in Kuwait and other Arab countries.

Hawamdeh addresses Arab contracting talks in Morocco

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh on Monday stressed the necessity for Arabising contracts and mobilising Arab efforts and capacities to enable Arab contractors to compete with foreign ones.

Addressing the 2nd conference of Arab Contractors Federation (ACF), currently meeting in Casablanca, the minister said the volume of the contracts carried out in the Arab World by foreign contractors reveals the shortcomings in policies followed by Arab countries for offering contracts to foreigners instead of to local contractors.

Mr. Hawamdeh called for achieving joint Arab work and for drawing up an integrated base for the construction and industrial sectors.

The minister also stressed the need to intensify and pursue efforts with Arab and Islamic funds to support the projects and activities of the ACF. He pointed out Jordan's efforts in the fields of building legislation and in drawing up the Kingdom's national building code. Mr. Hawamdeh further called on the federation to develop the conditions of Arab contractors to cope with developments in the cultural,

economic and social fields and to invest Arab resources.

During its three-day meetings, the conference will review reports on the federation's administrative and financial performance and will discuss a request from the Egyptian contractors union to rejoin the federation. It will also study a proposal put forward by Jordan to establish a branch for the federation in Amman. The proposal was approved by the federation's executive board during its meeting Sunday.

Taking part in the conference are representatives of nine Arab countries; Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Yemen Arab Republic, Libya, Iraq, Morocco and Palestine.

Jordan's delegation to the meeting is headed by chairman of the Jordan Contracting Association Ali Abu Al Ragheb.

Private sector blocks government move to set up counter trade company

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Mounting pressures and complaints lodged by the private sector against a government initiative to set up a specialised company for counter trade transactions ended in the private sector's favour when the government decided to revoke its decision, a senior Ministry of Trade and Industry official said on Monday.

The proposed and later scrapped institution was expected to start initial operations last December and was designed to cover imports and exports for the public sector and its respective public shareholding companies, according to an announcement issued last July. Private sector importers and the chambers of trade and commerce levelled harsh attacks against the government's step, charging that such a company would take away an annual revenue of between JD 15 to JD 17 million secured by private sector agencies in charge of importing supplies for the government and its affiliated organisations. They further said that the public sector was already enjoying a large share in the

country's imports of basic commodities and other supplies, leaving little room for their export-import oriented deals.

According to official estimates, imports for the public sector carried by private agencies and companies reached JD 250 million in 1986.

"If the private sector importers were taking a commission of between five to eight per cent on securing the JD 250 million supplies for the public sector (the government), such a company for counter trade transactions would have been a strong blow to our role and businesses," said a seasoned businessman who has been in charge of large imports for the government for 10 years.

According to the July announcement, the projected company's success would have determined whether or not its operations might expand to cover the private sector's import-export affairs.

Another key private sector figure contended that his colleagues would not have minded if the proposed public company's operations were confined to covering Jordan's public sector exports.

"We are not concerned about

organising the exports of the potash company for example," said the businessman who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Not set up to compete"

But the senior ministry official said: "The company was only a means to serve and increase Jordan's exports, rather than to compete with the private sector. However, we had to reverse our decision, which had already been approved, since the private sector fought hard to block the initiative."

The company, with an estimated paid up capital of between JD 500,000 to JD 1 million, was to have been financed on an equal footing by the eight public parties involved in it. The eight sides were: the Supply Ministry, the Jordanian Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), the Arab Potash Company (APC), the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan (AMPCO), the Jordan National Shipping Line (JNL), the Ministry of Industry's Trade Centres Corporation and both the civil and military consumers corporations.

Aid fund to increase budget to JD 4.5m

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) started its operations earlier this month after enforcing laws and regulations approved by the fund's board of directors in November, 1986. NAF Director General Mohammad Al Suqour said on Monday.

Dr. Suqour explained that the fund was established to cater for poor and needy people in the country and to develop prequalification programmes designed to help people rely on themselves to earn their income.

Dr. Suqour said that the fund's JD 800,000 budget will be increased to JD 4.5 million. This increase is to be achieved through a government allocation of JD 3 million in the 1987 state budget and by transferring all social service tax revenues to the fund's

budget. In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Suqour said that the fund relies mainly on contributions from the government and the private sector.

Enumerating sources of income of the fund, Dr. Suqour said the government has allocated JD 3 million in its 1987 budget for the fund, in addition to the social services tax which will be transferred in full to the fund. Other sources, he added, include private contributions from individuals, societies and organisations. However, he added, if these voluntary contributions and pledges fall short of meeting the fund's budget, the difference could be covered by the government.

Speaking about the forms of assistance provided by the fund, Dr. Suqour said that it provides monthly stipends to needy people, emergency assistance and vocational and physical prequalification. On the vocational prequalification, Dr. Suqour said the fund extends those eligible with loans after training them in an income generating trade in order to establish their own business in an effort to make them self-reliant.

Dr. Suqour said that the fund will give needy families recurrent monthly assistance of JD 20 for the family supporter and JD 4 for each family member up to a maximum of five. Dr. Suqour added that the number of beneficiaries of the fund now stands at 9,000 families, but will increase in the future.

A tree for all seasons

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The name Alia Ammoura will probably not be familiar to many art goers here in Amman, but after her exhibition at the Alia Art Gallery this week it should be one that will be remembered. Her debut show in the capital represents a good body of work that is highly pleasing, well crafted and refreshing.

Its theme is trees, not single trees standing alone but forests of them in every kind of light and season. With their slim trunks and curving branches, these woods of saplings are shown in their winter nakedness with only the snow to cover their feet, and again we see them in their Autumn glory, their canopies a mass of golden yellow. Yet other paintings show them in their full Summer verdancy, while many more catch the freshness of the first green leaves of Spring. All, whether Summer, Winter, Spring or Autumn, are filled with light — a light that glimmers and glints between the swaying leaves to dapple the earth below in an evermoving patchwork of subtle shade.

Light and colour

But what makes Ammoura's paintings different is not only that she has filled them with light, but also with colour. Her rich rhythmic patterns of reds purples,



The splendour of trees captured in many forms by Alia Ammoura

pinks, blues and yellows that blend with the greens reduce her forests to exciting abstractions, only the vertical trunks and the intertwining branches giving the game away. With these colours, Ammoura also creates intriguingly illusionary and real depth in her work. The illusionary

ART REVIEW

depth coming from the clever juxtaposition of different shades while the real depth has been achieved by the application of great and varying thicknesses of paint. One technique enhances the other, the ultimate effect being one of a kind of holographic three dimensionalism.

Forests of people

Ammoura's work, then, seems to be a committed and interesting study of trees and the different effects light plays upon them creating new colours and depths. But then is it? As one continues to look at her work, the slender trunks and the long, improbably long, tapering branches that gracefully curve and interlace, seem to become a metaphor of ourselves. Rooted firmly in our own individualism, our own beliefs and traditions we try nevertheless to reach out for each other. Thus, isn't Ammoura saying, we become like the trees, tenuously linked while remaining basically isolated? The exhibition continues until Thursday Jan. 22.

THE JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER CO. LTD.
Amman - Jordan

The Jordanian Electric Power Company Limited (JEPCO) invites bids for the Erection and Commissioning Services of HV and LV Electrical Networks Phase 2. Financed by the World Bank under Loan Agreement 2371-JO. Bids are invited from the World Bank member countries, Switzerland, Taiwan and China for the following :-

JEP 1041/IBRD - Erection of HV and LV Networks Phase 2

Tender Documents could be inspected and purchased from the offices of Kennedy & Donkin at the address below from Tuesday 20th January, 1987. Application for Tender Documents must include a non-returnable fee of £40 Sterling for each complete set with which to tender. Documents will only be despatched on receipt of this fee.

Tender Documents may be inspected only at the JEPCO offices in Amman.

The Jordanian Electric Power Co. LTD., P.O. Box 618 (Near 1st Circle) Jabel Amman, Amman The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Telex 21507 JEPCO JO

Kennedy & Donkin Consulting Engineers, Westbrook Mills, GODALMING, Surrey, GU7 2AZ England Telex 859373 KDHO G

Tenders are to be submitted in English and must be completed in duplicate using the Documents Provided. The 'Master' and 'Copy' Tenders are to be returned to JEPCO in Amman.

ALL Tenders are to be submitted by 12.00 hours local time on Tuesday 7th April, 1987. The 'Master' Tender will be opened thereafter in the offices of JEPCO on the closing date set for the receipt of Tenders.

THE JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER CO. LTD.
Amman - Jordan

The Jordanian Electric Power Company Limited (JEPCO) invite bids for the supply of the following equipment for the Sixth Power project, financed by the World Bank under Loan Agreement 2710-JO. Bids are invited from the World Bank member countries, Switzerland, Taiwan and China for the following:-

JEP 1088/IBRD - 33KV and 11KV Transformers
JEP 1089/IBRD - Underground Cables, Overhead Line Conductors and Accessories
JEP 1090/IBRD - 33KV and 11KV Pole Mounted Auto-Reclosers
JEP 1091/IBRD - Single and Three Phase LV KWH Meters

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Sowing seeds of destruction

IRAN'S current attacks against Basra in the southern Gulf war front and at Sumar in the central sector may not be the "final offensive" that Tehran has long threatened, but they certainly look like one last attempt by the Tehran ayatollahs to achieve well-defined political objectives.

The first of these objectives is the widely accepted theory that Iran aims to disrupt preparations for the Islamic summit which is to be held in Kuwait later this month. Depending on the progress of the offensive, Iran would of course move from mere disruption to outright blackmail of the Islamic states attending the summit, particularly the host country, Kuwait, and the other members of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council. The choice of Basra as the focal point of the latest offensive is no coincidence. Kuwait is just down the road; Tehran reckons that Islamic leaders planning to attend the summit would have to revise their travel plans if the Iranian forces made so much as small inroads into Iraqi territory, or even if the Iranians simply fire at Iraqi positions. Why the ayatollahs should want to disrupt or threaten the Arab and Islamic states' meeting in Kuwait is something that observers and analysts do not want to spend too much time on at this stage. But evidently, the Iranian regime sees a strategic need in such manoeuvring, even at the heavy cost of tens of thousands of human lives and much suffering.

Another important objective of the new Iranian offensive seems to be an attempt to mask the serious cracks that are reported to have surfaced within Iranian leadership ranks lately. According to reports filtering out of Tehran, there has been a strong opposition voiced by senior mullahs and other groups inside Iran against the prolongation of the war. This opposition, the reports say, stems from growing doubts, inside the ruling Islamic Revolutionary Party itself, about the country's ability to withstand the economic and social pressures of continued warfare. This opposition wants "victory" and not "martyrdom"; unless the regime's advocates of endless war could show some success on the ground, the so-called "moderates" would have to grow bolder and seek ways to end the war their own way.

More sinister objectives could be imputed to the recalcitrant leadership of Iran in order to explain its new offensives against Iraq. But, no matter how many reasons Ayatollah Khomeini has for continuing his mad war, the end result will doubtless be the same. He has sown the seeds of his own and his regime's destruction; there is no turning back. We only hope that this last attempt to massacre his own people and others will indeed be his last.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Knifing Israeli occupation

EVERY day brings with it more evidence about the fact that co-existence between the Arab population and occupation rule is an impossible situation. The stabbing of two Zionist extremists in Arab Jerusalem reflects the Arab population's rejection of occupation and their total refusal to accept Israel's hegemony and domination of their destiny and their land. Israel has been striving to force the Arab population to accept Israel's rule and Israel's iron fist policy towards them. For Israel, co-existence means placing Arab territory and Arab future in the hands of the Zionists and depriving the Arabs of their basic rights and freedom. The stabbing of the two Zionists in Jerusalem is a natural reaction to Israel's continued presence by force in Arab land and Zionist arbitrary actions and repressive measures against the Arab population. The Arab population of Palestine who have had long experience about Israel's actions and measures are full of ideas for resisting occupation, and know well how to deal with the Israeli actions and atrocities. The Arab people of the occupied regions can show the Israelis how they repel aggression and how they resist occupation and defend their rights and their homeland.

Al Dustour: Iran rejects U.N. peace call

IT was not surprising at all to hear Iran renewing its rejection of the United Nations Security Council resolutions and the council's call for an end to the conflict with Iraq. Iran has been adamant in its position and has been refusing all bids for peace put forward by various organisations including the United Nations itself. Iran has been in the habit of reacting to United Nations calls for peace by defiantly declaring its hostile attitude towards the Arabs in general and its intention of occupying Iraqi territory in particular. Iran has been adopting such attitude because it realises that United Nations resolutions are nothing but ink on paper, and no real action would be taken to deter it from going ahead with its aggressive policies towards its neighbours. Iran realises that every time it commits a crime against the other countries in the region it escapes punishment from the world community. In addition, Iran has been counting on divisions within the Arab World, and finding solace in the inter-Arab disputes that tend to weaken Arab ranks. Iran is especially encouraged to pursue its aggression on Iraq by continued support it receives from certain Arab states which have been supplying arms to the Tehran regime. As we said, we are not surprised by Iran's actions but rather by the attitudes of certain Arab countries and by the continued divisions among Arab leaders.

Sawt Al Shaab: Iraq defends the nation

IN its continued and obstinate fighting against the Iranian aggressors, Iraq has been transformed into a formidable fortress, defending the Arab Nation and thwarting the dreams and ambitions of the Tehran regime. The people of Iraq are living through the most crucial time in their history and the armed forces who have been fighting the enemy for seven years have scored legendary successes and victories over the aggressors and the invaders. Every Iraqi is fully alerted to defend the homeland and every soldier is willing to sacrifice his soul for this noble cause. The Iraqi-Iranian conflict has drawn the attention of certain people who are keen on protecting Arab land; and perhaps King Hussein has been the first voice to be raised in the Arab World, calling on Arabs to defend Iraqi territory and so protect Arab order from the looming danger. The heroic struggle which the Iraqi people are waging in the face of the Iranian onslaught should prompt the whole Arab Nation to take immediate action and to rally forth in defence of Arab territory now being exposed to external aggression.

Lessons from the U.S.-ANC dynamic

By Rami G. Khouri

I was intrigued, and pleased, to hear the announcement a few weeks ago that United States Secretary of State George Shultz would meet in Washington this week with the leader of the African National Congress (ANC), Mr. Oliver Tambo. The United States for many years steadfastly refused to have any contact with the ANC, professing that it was a movement that engaged in violence and had dubious contacts with the Soviet Union.

The American change of policy on contacts with the ANC was slow to materialise, but now that it has taken place it is appropriate to commend the United States for a move that is eminently sensible in moral terms, and constructive in political terms.

When asked why the United States now sought to make the ANC a major player in the South African diplomatic equation, a State Department spokesman simply replied that the United States was not making the ANC a major player, but that the ANC already was a player that had to be figured into the political action.

I raise the point not so much because of its implications for the South Africa situation, but rather for the interesting parallel between the U.S. contacts with the ANC and U.S. lack of contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The obvious question that presents itself is: If Washington has started a dialogue with the ANC, why doesn't it start a similar dialogue with the PLO? Are there similarities between the two situations? Should Arab moderates take heart from the American-ANC dynamic, and expect that it is not long before Washington and the PLO sit around a table and talk about topics of mutual interest?

It would be naive to jump to optimistic conclusions. But the Shultz-Tambo meeting should certainly be taken for a significant move forward by the United States — a courageous and realistic move that we should applaud.

There remain, however, substantial differences between the American view of the ANC and the American view of the PLO — differences that highlight the capacity of the United States to engage simultaneously in a policy of enlightenment and realism in one part of

the world, and of hypocrisy and cowardice in another.

The United States has always maintained that it would never engage in dialogue with the PLO until the PLO accepted Israel's right to exist and renounced the use of violence and terror. No such criteria of political legitimacy have ever been laid down for American talks with the ANC, however. One wonders: Why?

The answer lies not in the realm of morality, because the moral claims of the black South Africans for equal political rights in their own country and the Palestinian claim for self-determination in Palestine are more or less identical.

Rather, the answer lies in the realm of political expediency. Within the American political context, it is politically more productive to support the ANC rather than the white minority government of South Africa. Conversely, it is more fruitful for an American politician to support Israel's rights over the Palestinians' right of national self-determination.

The interesting thing about the U.S.-ANC move, in my view, is what it shows about the capacity and the fact of change in Washington's policy. It is noteworthy that the American government did change its policy, and has initiated contacts with the ANC at the highest level, after refusing to do so for many years.

Is there room, therefore, for morality in the conduct of foreign policy — even for delayed-action morality that takes many years to self-activate? The ANC held firm to its position and refused to bow to American demands. In the end, the United States saw the light, and reached out to the ANC.

The PLO and the Arabs as a whole, without exactly jumping for joy, should take heart from this development and learn from the ANC's track record. It is interesting how close the PLO and the ANC are in their adherence to political programmes that seek to achieve the national rights of their people, while also accepting the political and human rights of their enemies.

Just as the ANC has repeatedly assured the world that white South Africans would enjoy rights and one-person one-vote privileges in a

democratic South Africa, so has the PLO offered political programmes over the years that are based on the rights of Israelis and Palestinians to share the land of Palestine according to the same principles.

When the American-Israeli combine rejected the Palestinian proposal of a secular democratic state in all of Palestine, in which Christians, Muslims and Jews would have equal rights, the Palestinian national movement and the Arab states offered the idea of Palestinian-Israeli coexistence in two separate states — the Israelis within their pre-1967 borders, and the Palestinians in a sovereign state in the West Bank and Gaza, perhaps confederated with Jordan or other Arab states.

This, too, has been generally rejected by the American and Israeli leadership over the years. The Americans still insist that the PLO must first recognise Israel's "right to exist" before the PLO can be engaged as a credible diplomatic partner.

Why has the United States, then, suddenly embraced the ANC as a diplomatic protagonist, without having asked the ANC a priori to recognise the legitimacy of the white minority government of South Africa? Why has the United States talked to the ANC without demanding that the ANC cease its armed struggle in South Africa?

Good questions, I would have thought, for an American nation that prides itself not only on its diplomatic fortitude, but on the fact that its diplomacy is based on a foundation of consistent moral principles. Perhaps after Mr. Shultz comes out of his meetings with Mr. Tambo next week, he might give us some answers.

He has shown, in his dialogue with the ANC, that he and his country have the capacity to apply the principles of what is morally right to policies that are politically productive. One looks forward to the application of this same strand of ethical politics to American involvement in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Or will the decision to talk to the ANC simply accentuate the double standards that the United States has always applied to the Palestinian people and their national rights?

Defence chief cites U.S. goals in Middle East, South Asia

From USIA

WASHINGTON — U.S. Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger told Congress that, in the Middle East-South Asia region, the United States aims to thwart Soviet aggression, preserve access to energy resources, reduce opportunities for destabilisation of friendly states, prevent the spread of armed conflict and bring about an Arab-Israeli accord.

The American goals were laid out as Mr. Weinberger presented his annual report to the Congress in an appearance before the Senate Budget Committee January 13.

In the eastern Mediterranean, the report says, the United States is trying to defuse Syrian-Israeli tensions and to support "a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

It terms the six-year-old war between Iran and Iraq a threat to the economic health of regional states and their western trading partners. A challenge facing the United States, it notes, is to help U.S. friends in the region preserve their freedom and "to ensure free world access to Gulf oil, if need be by countering threats from the Soviet Union."

Mr. Weinberger warned about "the willingness of several nations" to employ terrorism as an instrument of national policy. The United States must counter and discourage such activity, he said.

The secretary reported that in recent years the U.S. has strengthened its military ability to respond to threats in Southwest Asia, the Middle East, South Asia and North Africa. Further, he said, negotiations are continuing with countries in the area to reach cooperative agreements for mutual support of forces and the prepositioning of supplies.

In assessing major regional military balances and threats in the world, Weinberger listed the Middle East-Southwest Asia region as "an inviting target for Soviet expansionism." But, he added, the improved capability of the United States to get military forces into the region quickly "helps to deter Soviet attack." At this point the secretary stressed the need for cooperative "defensive military strength," with friends and allies in the region, should deterrence fail.

Following are excerpts from Mr. Weinberger's report to the Congress relating to South Asia and the Middle East regions:

Regional Security

Southwest Asia, the Middle East, South Asia, and North Africa. Political and military instability continue to plague Southwest Asia (SWA), the Middle East, South Asia, and North Africa. Our objectives in the region are to deter and, if necessary, defend against Soviet aggression; preserve free world access to resources, particularly energy resources; reduce opportunities for subversion or destabilisation of friendly states; prevent the spread of escalation of armed conflicts; and reach a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

1—The Challenge and Risks

In the Eastern Mediterranean, we seek to diffuse tensions between Syria and Israel and support a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. As long as this dispute remains unresolved, we will continue to face the possibility of a major conflict directly involving the United States and the Soviet Union.

In the Gulf, the Iran-Iraq war threatens maritime trade routes, central to the economic viability of friendly regional states and their Western trading partners. In

addition, Iranian support for subversion threatens the stability of the entire region. Our challenge is to help our friends in the region preserve their freedom and to ensure free world access to Gulf oil, if need be by countering threats from the Soviet Union.

Throughout Southwest Asia, the Middle East, South Asia, and North Africa, we are confronted by the willingness of several nations (in and outside these regions) to use terrorism as an instrument of national policy. Not only must we counter the terrorist threat; we must also discourage certain states from supporting such activity.

2—The recent record

In recent years, we have improved our capability to respond to threats in Southwest Asia, the Middle East, South Asia, and North Africa. The readiness of forces who could be called on to operate in the region has improved. Those forces are continuing to receive more modern equipment. Our capability to deploy them rapidly continues to grow, and we are in the final stages of a comprehensive revitalisation of our Special Operations Forces (SOF).

Improvements in our ability to defend regional interests hinge on access to friendly territory and facilities during crises. Negotiations to reach agreements for access and mutual support of forces, and arrangements for the prepositioning of essential supplies, have been under way and are continuing.

3—Exercises and training. The keystone of our training programme in this region is the Bright Star / Accurate Test exercise series. (Bright Star is conducted in odd-numbered years and Accurate Test in even years.) Of late, deteriorating economic conditions throughout the region have affected the ability of our security partners to commit forces to these exercises.

We have established several bilateral consultation groups to improve defence cooperation between the United States and friendly states in Southwest Asia, the Middle East, South Asia, and North Africa. These groups meet periodically to consider issues ranging from combined planning for joint exercises to

prepositioning of U.S. military equipment.

4—Special programmes

Outside the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) programme, we are cooperating with several regional states such as Saudi Arabia, Oman, Jordan, Morocco, Pakistan, Egypt, India, and Israel to improve their defence capabilities and enhance the ability of U.S. forces to respond to contingencies. Examples of such cooperation are the continued deployment of E-3 AWACS aircraft in Saudi Arabia to support regional stability and freedom of navigation in the Gulf; an agreement with Oman that allows us temporary access to its facilities in the event we are asked to respond to a regional crisis; and defence industrial cooperation programmes with Egypt and Pakistan. With Israel, we have the Free Trade Area Agreement, which guarantees Israeli access to U.S. markets, and the U.S.-Israeli Memorandum of Understanding, which allows Israel to compete with U.S. firms for DOD contracts and U.S. firms to compete for Israeli government contracts. U.S. personnel also contribute directly to the preservation of peace in the Middle East by serving as members of the multinational force in the Sinai. To improve India's defence production capability, we have agreed to assist its efforts to develop a

light-combat aircraft, antiarmor systems, and a national test range. We have also agreed in principle to allow for the transfer of advanced computers, subject to certain safeguards.

Major regional balances

The Middle East-Southwest Asia Balance

The Middle East/Southwest Asia region's critical geographic location, its considerable petroleum resources and its proximity to the Soviet Union combine to make it an inviting target for Soviet expansionism. The Soviets maintain significant ground and tactical air forces in their military districts contiguous to the region and have been active in developing support bases for Soviet navy presence in the Indian Ocean. Since 1979, the Soviets have been using military forces in their attempt to subjugate the Afghan people.

The immediate Soviet threat to the region in "a global" conflict consists of 30 active ground divisions, including some 5,450 tanks, over 1,400 fixed and rotary wing tactical aircraft, and numerous mobile missile launchers. Long-range bombers from air and naval units stationed outside the Southern Theatre of Military Operations could also be directed to interrupt our

projection of forces to the region. Soviet proximity to Southwest Asia provides them with a significant advantage in the balance, but the determination of the regional states to maintain their independence and the extremely difficult terrain partially offset these advantages. Furthermore, we estimated that the long lines of communications the Soviets would have to maintain to control the region's oil-producing facilities would be vulnerable to both air and unconventional ground interdiction, and would require a substantial investment in personnel to ensure local security.

As with other regions, our national security objectives in the Middle East and Southwest Asia include: deterring and, if necessary, defending against Soviet aggression; countering Soviet moves to gain power and influence; and protecting free world access to resources. Since 1981, we have improved our capability for projecting military forces to the region. We have built our potential force allocation to more than six ground divisions and over 600 tactical aircraft, and we now have the capability to deploy rapidly about four divisions (largely through our acquisition of U.S.-based fast sealift and maritime prepositioning in the Indian Ocean). To test these forces and

our rapid-deployment concepts, we have conducted a number of successful exercises with friendly regional states. Part of our continuing plan to assist regional states defend more effectively against Soviet aggression calls for the forward deployment, in peace-time, of certain Central Command forces. To date, political problems and access limitations have limited our success. Regional states' awareness of the range of threats to their security, however, has made them receptive to our military assistance programmes, foreign military sales, and military exercises.

Our improved capability to project significant forces quickly into the region helps to deter Soviet attack. Should deterrence fail, we could successfully defend the region with substantially fewer ground forces than the Soviets would need to seize and occupy it. We would need to come to rapid accord with them regarding access and host nation support, and the continued flow of defensive military strength for our defensive military operations.

White House portrays Reagan as unaware

By Terence Hunt
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Ronald Reagan is keeping his distance from developments in the Iran-Contra scandal, and White House aides portray him as being only casually involved in a controversial decision to send arms to Tehran.

Reagan himself has little to say about it these days.

Although fallout from the sale of arms to Iran and diversion of profits to Nicaraguan Contra rebels dominates the news daily, Reagan has been virtually silent on the subject for weeks, leaving it to others to deal with what he knew and what he approved.

The president's last news conference — filled with Iran-Contra questions — was on Nov. 19. Now presidential

spokesman Larry Speakes says it will be some time in February, at the earliest, before Reagan holds another.

He has made no move to clear up confusion about the contradictory recollections of current and former members of his staff on key questions such as when he first authorised sending arms to Iran.

Instead, the White House seems content to let the story unfold from congressional investigations and eventually from the investigation by independent counsel Lawrence Walsh and his staff of former prosecutors.

"There is nothing you're going to do that gets this behind you. There is no big-bang solution," said one White House official, speaking privately.

Reagan will not call in former aides John Poindexter and Oliver

North. "There is nothing you can do to short-circuit this process," the official added, arguing that the administration's best strategy is to try to get out all the facts and promise to fix whatever was wrong. Both of whom have invoked constitutional protections against self-incrimination and refused to answer questions in Congress — and ask them what they knew because that was subject him to criticism that he was trying to be "the defence attorney, prosecutor, judge and jury," the official said.

Despite a multitude of questions about the Iran-Contra deal, Reagan has not made any public comment on it since two days before Christmas, when he said in a speech, "And I really mean, when all of these indications that maybe I know more than I'm talking about —

I'm trying to find, too, what happened."

At the risk of portraying Reagan as being out of touch, White House officials have gone out of their way to emphasise that not only was he unaware that arms-sale money going to the Contras, but that he also had almost a hands-off attitude toward approving the arms shipments.

A White House official at a briefing for reporters distributed copies of a 2 1/2-page memorandum presented to Reagan in January 1986 setting out the administration's rationale for selling arms to Iran.

A note scribbled on the document showed that Reagan did not even read the memo but "was briefed verbally from this paper."

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Australian media face shakeup after takeover battle

By Francis Daniel
Reuter

SYDNEY — The Australian media face a far-reaching shake-up with business tycoon Rupert Murdoch poised to gain control of the country's largest newspaper group, market analysts said on Jan. 16.

Murdoch emerged the winner of a six-week battle for the group, the Herald and Weekly Times (HWT), when his arch-rival, Robert Holmes A Court, announced a decision to withdraw his takeover bid.

Murdoch, born in Australia but now an American citizen, would have to make major structural changes to the group to adhere to the broadcasting and television act which restricts foreign ownership of local broadcasting interests to 15 per cent, the analysts said.

Government legislation is also pending in parliament to restrict ownership of newspapers and television and radio stations, which would further place a burden on Murdoch's expanding Australian media empire, they

said. Prime Minister Bob Hawke gave an assurance on Jan. 16, that there would be no government intervention as long as Murdoch's takeover met all legal requirements.

Holmes A Court said in a radio interview that a single trans-Atlantic telephone call with Murdoch in New York helped reach a "sensible compromise" in the multi-billion dollar battle that has rocked the Australian stock markets.

Under the compromise, Holmes A Court will give up his interests in HWT in favour of Murdoch, who has offered 2.3 billion dollars (1.6 billion U.S.) for the group.

But Murdoch would sell to Holmes A Court HWT's subsidiary West Australian Newspapers Ltd. and its television station in Melbourne for \$60 million dollar (300 million U.S.).

Holmes A Court, regarded as the richest man in the country, would make an estimated profit of 100 million dollars (65 million U.S.) selling his HWT holdings to

Murdoch, who owns the world's largest media empire, including major newspaper and broadcasting interests in the United States and Britain, would gain control of about 75 per cent of the Australian media industry, market analysts said.

The deal would also restore a family connection — Sir Keith Murdoch, the tycoon's father, headed the Herald group until his death in 1952. A Sydney newspaper commented that Sir Keith was still regarded as the patriarch of the organisation.

"It would be wrong to deny that it is an emotional moment for me," Murdoch said when he first announced his bid for the HWT on December 3.

HWT controls 14 metropolitan newspapers in five state capitals and television stations in Melbourne and Adelaide. Murdoch already owns News Corporation, the second largest domestic media group.

Describing the sudden end of the see-saw takeover battle, Holmes A Court said: "All the

essential ingredients were agreed within a single telephone call." "It was possible because Rupert Murdoch is a clear thinker and he is not petty in his commercial negotiations. Both of us gave way and reached a sensible compromise."

Holmes A Court agreed, however, that Murdoch's acquisition of HWT would involve "some restructuring" to meet media ownership regulations.

The Trade Practices Commission (TPC) has also been looking into the takeover bid, but Holmes A Court said these hurdles could be overcome without much difficulty.

The takeover has created a public controversy with journalists, trade union and community organisations expressing fears over a growing concentration of the domestic media.

The Australian Journalists Association (AJA) said the Holmes A Court-Murdoch deal did not alter its opposition to the takeover and it would take the issue to the TPC.

Eureka catches Europeans' imagination

By Milan Ruzicka
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Eureka, Europe's high-tech cooperation programme, has made a better-than-expected start in streamlining national research, officials say.

Companies are attracted to Eureka because participation improves chances of receiving public money and offers foreign partners. But the programme, set up in 1985 to boost the technological and competitive edge of European companies, still faces funding problems.

"From a political idea less than two years ago, we have developed into a popular programme," said Xavier Fels, head of Eureka's newly opened secretariat in Brussels.

He said more companies than expected are joining the programme — which France proposed as Europe's answer to the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative or "Star Wars."

Nineteen countries, including the 12 European Community nations, belong to the project, which aims to raise the competitiveness of European high-tech companies. Financing comes from public funds, private loans and the companies involved.

The EC's executive commission reports that since 1972, annual production of high-technology goods in Europe has grown by less than 5 per cent, compared with a 7.6 increase in the United States and 14 per cent in Japan.

To participate in Eureka, research must serve civilian aims, be commercially viable and involve companies, research institutes or individual scientists from at least two member countries. Some of the projects become eligible for public funding.

Eureka coordinates and spotlights projects but provides no funds of its own.

The 19 nations have endorsed 109 joint research projects, most involving computer technology and robotics, worth more than \$3.5 billion European currency units (\$3.7 billion).

The budget pales when compared with the \$26-billion Star Wars programme and the research funding of Japanese and U.S. companies.

One problem is Europe's divided market. "With a few notable exceptions, (European) research and development policies are applied without any coordination," said the EC report.

Figures on the public share of Eureka project financing were not immediately available.

Daniel Cloquet, an official at the Union of EC Industries (UNICE), said he prefers a maximum of 30 per cent to come from governments, but that financial aid is not the programme's biggest drawing card.

"At least, not yet. Many companies think the most important element is the commitment by governments to ensure the commercial success (of Eureka research)," he said.

"This role of a matchmaker is probably more important than money, especially for small and medium-sized firms," Cloquet said.

He said private loans and venture capital will be the largest sources of funding, outside government subsidies and the participants' own financial commitments. UNICE wants public financing for Eureka projects to depend on the technological and financial risks and not to exceed 30 per cent, he said.

The EC commission, which wants to launch its own 7.7-billion-ECU (\$8.3-billion) five-year high-tech research programme, has given Eureka a lukewarm welcome. Publicly, the commission, a Eureka member, says its programme would complement Eureka's.

But privately, officials complain Eureka encroaches on EC turf and draws public funds away from research that would benefit the entire EC, rather than participating companies only.

One official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said more than half of Eureka's 72 initial programmes at least partly duplicate EC-backed research.

France and West Germany each have pledged more than \$200 million to Eureka, far more than any other country, and are among the staunchest opponents of the EC programme.

Researchers seeking EC funds complain of complex rules for participating in its programme, saying they are forced to publish their findings and are granted only limited ownership rights to their inventions.

Eureka, on the other hand, is fairly unstructured. It has no headquarters apart from a sparsely decorated office in Brussels that serves as a secretariat.

Any government, even those outside Europe, can join without having to participate in a project. Canada has earmarked \$20 million for Canadian companies that may want to join Eureka.

The EC official said that because of this loose structure, companies might use Eureka participation as a cloak for anti-competitive activities.

Who rules Britain? Behind politicians are the Mandarins

By James M. Perry
The Wall Street Journal

LONDON — In an episode of "Yes, Prime Minister," BBC-TV's smash comedy show, Sir Geoffrey Hastings, head of Britain's ultra-secret spy-catching organisation, comes calling on Prime Minister Jim Hacker with an appalling tale.

One of his predecessors as head of MIS was himself a spy, Sir Geoffrey reveals. "How much did he tell the Russians?" asks the prime minister.

"That hardly matters," says Sir Geoffrey, noting that with all the traitor-spies that preceded him there wasn't much left to tell. "The point is, he was one of us. He joined MIS straight out of Oxford. Been in the civil service all his life."

The fictional colleague in the TV show was a "mandarin." Mandarins — and surely they are all patriots these days — do exist in real life. While other countries may have their own civil-service elites, the mandarins are uniquely British; there is nothing else quite like them. There are 41 of them, permanent secretaries at the top

of the civil-service heap-a-loof, secretive, privileged, highly educated.

Real ruling class?

Some critics maintain they are Britain's real ruling class, responsible in no small measure for the nation's political and economic decline since World War II.

They have been in the news lately. The greatest mandarin of them all, Sir Robert Armstrong, the cabinet secretary and head of the domestic civil service, recently spent a lot of time and energy attempting to convince sceptical Australian judges that a book by a former MIS agent shouldn't be published Down Under because it contains high-risk information and would encourage other retired agents to peddle their memoirs.

Nice touch in the truth-may-be-stranger-than-fiction department: The book suggests that the late Sir Roger Hollis, a former head of MIS, was a Soviet agent.

The Australians enjoyed the spectacle of the elegant Sir Robert squirming under cross-examination by Malcolm

Tumbull, a hard-nosed Australian lawyer representing Peter Wright, the retired MIS agent who wants his book published. A judge is expected to rule soon.

Sure one day to enter standard books of quotations was Sir Robert's admission that sometimes in his role as chief mandarin he had to be "economical with the truth."

Who are they?

So who are these mandarins (the name, used informally, originally referred to senior bureaucrats in the old Chinese empire)?

They are very high-ranking, permanent civil servants who lay out the options to the politicians. They aren't supposed to make policy, but they often point their bosses subtly in the "right" direction.

Sir Frank Cooper, a former permanent secretary at the Defence Ministry, says they represent continuity. "Politicians come and go. The permanent secretaries are there for life," he says.

Clive Ponting, a high-ranking civil servant for 15 years until he was arrested, tried — and

acquitted — for leaking state documents to a member of Parliament, says the selection system has hardly changed since it was first devised 130 years ago. It involves a highly selective complex of tests and interviews by senior civil servants that tends to favour candidates from Oxford and Cambridge. And it yields, he says, an "amateur administrative elite" in an age that requires highly skilled professionals.

"The successful mandarins," says Peter Hennessy, a British political commentator, "rise to the top as masters of ceremony for the ministers."

Sir Robert Armstrong is a classic example. He went to Eton College and then on to Oxford, where he studied Greek and Latin. He's famous for his memoirs, until not long ago writing them with a quill pen. Civil servants, he once said, "are those who serve the Crown with the pen rather than the sword."

But Sir Robert may be a bit of a museum piece. The cachet that has been attached to joining the civil service may be breaking down. "Everybody at Oxford and Cambridge," says Mr. Hennessy, "now wants to be a merchant banker."

Greenpeace sets sail for the white continent

Dan Hayward reports on a risky polar winter research campaign, organised by Greenpeace in its quest to make sure Antarctica becomes a world park and not a sparring ground for exploitation.

IF the polar ice cap at Antarctica were to melt, it is estimated the oceans of the world would rise 300ft. Any upset in the fragile ecology of Antarctica could seriously disturb weather patterns and ocean food supplies in ocean currents as far as the northern hemisphere.

The environmental group Greenpeace believes the future of world's last great wilderness area is already at risk and it has made Antarctica its most urgent conservation campaign.

As part of that campaign a specially strengthened 603-tonne converted tug, bearing the familiar Greenpeace rainbow on its bow, sailed recently from Christchurch, New Zealand, hoping to establish the first non-government scientific research base for a party of four to winter over in Antarctica.

A similar attempt which failed last year brought heavy criticism

from New Zealand and Australian government ministers, Antarctic organisation officials and other conservation groups.

The science ministers of both Australia and New Zealand bluntly told the Greenpeace expedition to turn back before their ship was trapped in the ice. Greenpeace officials admit that last year's expedition was not properly prepared but claim this one is different.

This year's expedition carries a helicopter capable of lifting 1,200-lbs at a time, which means it can start off-loading supplies and equipment while the vessel is still 20 km from Cape Evans on Ross Island, where the shore party will land.

A fabricated five-room base was designed in West Germany to withstand the rigours of a polar winter and Greenpeace claims it exceeds the British Antarctic survey requirements.

If the expedition succeeds in establishing the winter base — the leader, Peter Wilkinson, admits the odds are no better than 50-50 because of thicker than usual ice again this year — a party of three men and a woman will spend the polar winter on a planned research programme. This will include studies of krill, the coastal fish population, the effect of heat loss from the human body and the impact of humans and pollution on the white continent.

Greenpeace hopes that by carrying out a scientific research programme it will show the world it is sincere in its concern for Antarctica and win support for its claim for observer status at the Antarctic Treaty mineral negotiations to determine future mineral exploration and exploitation of the Antarctic.

Greenpeace argues that future mining or oil drilling poses the most serious threat to Antarctica and will inevitably disrupt the wildlife and the ecology.

A major oil spillage of a rogue well pouring out oil in winter

would create a disaster which could affect the whole world, Mr. Wilkinson says. Oil pollution would take longer to break down in the polar region, because of the climate, than anywhere else in the world.

Some scientists suggest an oil spill could take hundreds of years to disperse. "We say don't tamper with something the world knows little about, but the future of the area is threatened by talks now being held behind closed doors," Mr. Wilkinson says.

The tug Greenpeace will take about two weeks to reach Ross Island — and that will require considerable luck and a relatively ice-free Ross Sea. Thick pack ice could throw the whole plan into jeopardy — last year Ross Island was completely inaccessible.

"We know there are a lot of risks but we are well prepared. If we can gain world support to have Antarctica turned into a world park all the risks will be worthwhile," says Mr. Wilkinson — Financial Times feature.

Oxford prepares to elect new chancellor

By Brian Mooney
Reuter

OXFORD, England — Graduates of Oxford University, one of Britain's intellectual powerhouses, are revelling in high-level intrigue as they elect a new chancellor to replace Harold MacMillan, the late Earl of Stockton.

The contest to fill Oxford's top post, held by the former Conservative prime minister for 26 years until his death on December 29, has developed into a political highroller because the voting next March will be open to some 40,000 electors, about half of the university's living alumni.

Many of them hold key positions in Britain in politics, industry, and the professions. Others are scattered around the world in more than 100 countries, including a handful from the eastern bloc.

The chancellorship is purely honorary. Chancellors receive no salary and are expected to pay their own expenses.

Their duties are hardly arduous — conferring honorary degrees on foreign and national dignitaries in June each year robed in medieval gown and cap at a ceremony conducted in Latin and known by the Greek word *encaenia* (renewal).

But the post is traditionally held by a top statesman or person of similar rank and candidates

mooted this time include heir to the throne Prince Charles, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and three of her predecessors and Lord Halsbury, the lord chancellor.

The non-resident job, first held by Bishop Robert Grossetest in 1233, is considered important because the chancellor is the university's standard bearer to the outside world.

But no one fails to see the light side of the contest.

"A striking feature about this election is that it is uniquely unimportant. There will be no great issues at stake," Oxford's professor of modern history Norman Stone told Reuters.

Yet at the same time, the choice of a new chancellor is being taken seriously both in Oxford and among former students. The prospect of a general election this year has only added to the political spice and as term resumes in Oxford, dons are hard at work at their favourite game — election intrigue and political in-fighting.

"Every high table is gossiping about it and there is a lot of talk in London clubs and both houses of parliament," Geoffrey Warnock, principal of Hertford College and a former vice-chancellor, told Reuters.

The national press has also weighed in with pre-election coverage, testimony to Oxford's enduring sway over Britain even at a time when its 800-year-old

university is not quite the exclusive seat of learning and influence that it once was.

The suggestion that Thatcher, herself a graduate of Oxford, might allow her name to be put forward as a candidate has been greeted as something of a bombshell in the university.

Two years ago, Oxford's 2,500-strong ruling congregation of senior members and academics voted against granting her an honorary doctorate in civil law in a protest against her government's cuts on education spending.

"That was a major scandal and has done Oxford nothing but harm," Lord Blake, provost of Queen's College, told Reuters.

Thatcher's supporters reckon she could win the contest for the chancellorship from the far larger convocation, the university's electorate made up of the 40,000 former members who hold an Oxford masters' degree, or M.A.

"It would not be beyond Thatcher to rather enjoy the prospect of such sweet revenge," one of her Conservative colleagues in parliament told Reuters.

But others doubted that she would want to risk putting forward her name in an election year.

Two former Conservative prime ministers, Edward Heath and Lord Home, and former Labour Prime Minister Harold Wilson — all Oxford graduates — are also being tipped as

candidates.

If elected, Lord Wilson would be Oxford's first Socialist chancellor.

But college presidents and senior tutors, who claim to have their finger on the electoral pulse, say Heath and Wilson are both discounted and that Home is a distant outsider.

They see the most likely candidates as Lord Carrington, the former foreign secretary and current secretary general of NATO, and Roy Jenkins, a former Labour cabinet minister and first leader of the breakaway Social Democratic Party (SDP).

Allowances could be made for the fact that Carrington was not an Oxford man. Two previous distinguished chancellors, the Duke of Wellington and Oliver Cromwell, were also non-Oxonians.

The statutes do not stipulate that candidates must be from Oxford. The only qualification is that they be nominated by several members of convocation.

A left wing faction is thinking of fielding Winnie Mandela, wife of jailed South African nationalist leader Nelson Mandela.

The last election in 1960 was awash with intrigue and claims of good-natured sludgery. It was a hard-fought affair as MacMillan, the outsider, beat the official university candidate, the philosopher and diplomat Lord Franks, by 1967 votes to 1697.

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(b) training or experience in office administrative functions
(c) very good knowledge of Arabic and English
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(c) maintaining office inventory, records of property and log book of vehicles
(d) supervising the correspondence registry and follow-up of decisions
(e) supervising clerks, secretaries and drivers
(f) arranging travel of experts and assisting in the organisation of meetings and training courses.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED:

(a) secondary education or equivalent (as a minimum) with training and studies relevant to the job
(b) very good knowledge of Arabic and English — knowledge of French an advantage
(c) ability to draft and type in English and Arabic
(d) substantial experience in administrative and financial functions preferably in accounting and personnel administration in international organisations.

(2) SECRETARY (Grade L.3, approximate basic starting salary: JD 2300 per annum)

DUTIES: Bilingual secretary to the Director and the tasks include the following:

(a) assembling relevant data and information and maintaining office records and files
(b) preparing the appointments and programmes and keeping track of matters requiring the attention of the Director
(c) normal secretarial duties including taking dictation and typing in Arabic and English
(d) drafting of routine correspondence and the preparation of summary translations of documents and reports
(e) organising the meetings called by the Director.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED:

(a) secondary school (or equivalent) with study and training in secretarial work
(b) very good knowledge of English and Arabic, knowledge of French an advantage
(c) shorthand and typing in English and Arabic at test standards
(d) adequate experience as secretary preferably with experience in accounting and budgetary control in international organisations.

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(c) drafting routine correspondence and maintaining financial and administrative records
(d) typing in English and Arabic
(e) assisting in the organisation of meetings and training courses

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED:

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(b) very good knowledge of English and Arabic, — knowledge of French an advantage
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Lendl survives challenge to advance to quarterfinals

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — World no. 1 Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia had to survive a testing workout Monday before overcoming American Dan Goldie to advance to the last eight of the \$1.65 million Australian Open tennis championships.

Lendl had to fight for almost three hours before downing the rookie professional 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 (9-7), 6-3.

Three other top players also made their way into the men's singles quarterfinals.

Defending champion Stefan Edberg of Sweden, the fourth seed, celebrated his 21st birthday with a lopsided 6-1, 6-0, 6-1 fourth-round triumph over 13th seeded American Robert Seguso.

Sixth-seeded Czech Miloslav Mecir and ninth-seeded Anders Jarryd of Sweden also moved into the last eight.

Mecir earned a meeting with Edberg by scoring an impressive 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 victory over Australian Mark Kratzmann, a former junior Wimbledon champion.

Jarryd will face Lendl in the last eight after downing unseeded Australian Peter Doherty, ranked 29th in the world, 6-1, 6-7 (2-7), 6-4, 7-6 (7-2).

No women's singles were scheduled Monday, the eighth day of the tournament, which is being

played at Kooyong for the last time.

Lendl, 26, a U.S. resident, didn't have such an easy time with Goldie as he expected. Goldie, 23, played superbly in the first set, and led Lendl 5-1 in the third set tiebreak before finally succumbing to big Czech's relentless power.

Lendl, aiming to win a Grand Slam tournament on grass for the first time, kept his nerve and concentration and clinched the third set with a remarkable diving drop volley after bravely staying off four set points.

Losing the crucial tiebreaker appeared to drain Goldie's confidence and Lendl, the U.S. and French Open champion, assumed complete control, although he only won on his fifth match point as Goldie stubbornly refused to fold.

"He served like a madman early on and it is always a relief to get through a match like that. Only a couple of millimetres separated me from losing that third set," Lendl said.

Goldie said he was encouraged by his performance. "I always felt I could play with the top pros and now I know I can," he said.

Jarryd was always in command against Doherty, who was extremely competitive, but ultimately outgunned.

The Swede, playing a singles tournament for the first time since September after being sidelined by injury, had mixed feelings about the match.

"I was satisfied with the way I played, but disappointed I let him into the match in the second set," he said.

Edberg's birthday victory was aided by an injury to Seguso's left knee. The American had said before the match that he felt he had no chance of defeating Edberg because of the injury.

Seguso, who was playing his first tournament for five months, will undergo an operation on the knee next week.

Edberg next meets the tall, 22-year-old Mecir, who holds a 3-1 career record against him and beat him in straight sets at Wimbledon last year.

Second seed Boris Becker had a day off Monday, giving him an opportunity to recover from a sore throat. He faces Australian Wally Masur in his fourth-round match Tuesday.

Euro soccer roundup

Maradona charges injury was 'malicious' damage

LONDON (R) — Diego Maradona, whose footballing career lurches between moments of triumph and agony, claimed his latest injury setback in the Italian Soccer League Sunday amounted to malicious damage.

The Argentine World Cup captain's face, contorted either by joy or pain, is a familiar image. The photographs adorning Monday's Italian newspapers, news and sports pages, unmistakably portrayed a man in difficulty.

Napoli, Maradona's team, beat Brescia 2-1 to stay top of the Italian League. This fact, though, was secondary to the state of Maradona's left ankle, into which two metal screws were inserted in 1983 and which failed him again Sunday when he was carried off after 61 minutes.

"Obviously Brescia knew of the problems my left ankle had been giving me over the past few days and they tortured me," he said. "Was it deliberate? I don't know, but it was certainly malicious. Such things shouldn't happen between people in the same business."

Maradona is expected to be fit to play Udinese in two weeks' time but said he had been advised not to play in a charity match for a South American selection in Japan next Saturday.

Internazionale stayed second in the table, two points behind Napoli, with a 2-1 win over Empoli, the newly-promoted side who began First Division life

impressively but is now in the lowly category.

AC Milan, though, lost 1-0 to struggling Ascoli, who had not won at home for seven months, and dropped from third to sixth accompanied by cries of "incredible" and "diabolical" from the media.

Roma's miserable goalless draw against Como was not relieved by news that Polish defender Zibigniew Boniek would be out for a month after breaking a toe in the first half.

In Spain, Real Madrid beat Real Sociedad 2-0 with goals by Spanish internationals Rafael Gordillo and Ricardo Gallego to retain second place two points behind Barcelona, who crushed Athletic Bilbao 4-1 on Saturday night.

Barcelona was in outstanding form at home to Bilbao, with British strikers Gary Lineker and Mark Hughes both scoring.

Englishman Lineker scored first, his 10th league goal of the season, to put Barcelona ahead in the 17th minute from a cross by Francisco Carrasco, who scored the second. Welshman Hughes added the third, Roberto Fernandez's header accounted for fourth while Bilbao's Ismael Urbini cut the deficit with a long-range shot.

Real Betis stopped third-placed Espanol's five-game winning sequence with a 2-0 home win, the goals coming from Luis Gail and Argentine striker Gabriel Humberto Calderon.

Milwaukee downs Atlanta

NEW YORK (AP) — John Lucas, in his last chance to play in the NBA, wasted no time taking advantage of it.

Lucas, signed by Milwaukee on Saturday after 10 months away from professional basketball because of cocaine addiction, played a key role Sunday in the Bucks' 100-91 victory over Central Division leading Atlanta. He had 12 points, a team-high seven assists and hit a three-pointer with 1:50 left to put Milwaukee ahead to stay.

"When you've played for 10 years in this league, you know what to do on the court," Lucas said of his success.

Ricky Pierce led the Bucks with 20 points, while Mike McGee had 24 for Atlanta. Dominique Wilkins, who missed part of the game with a knee injury, was held to 18.

Lakers 115, Bulls 101

Magic Johnson went 6 for 6 in the fourth quarter as Los Angeles outscored Washington 32-20 in the final 12 minutes to beat Washington. Johnson scored 11 of his 20 points in the first six minutes of the final period. Jeff Malone scored 27 and Moses Malone 21 for the Bulls.

Celtics 122, Rockets 99

Boston won for the 11th time in 12 outings as Larry Bird scored 32 points. In their first meeting since last year's NBA championship series, the two teams stayed close for most of the first half until a 15-6 run gave Boston a 61-51 halftime lead. A 16-5 surge early in the third quarter then gave the Celtics a 77-59 advantage and they coasted to victory.

Warriors 116, Blazers 103

Golden State won at Portland for the first time since Dec. 8, 1981 as Joe Barry Carroll scored 36 points and Eric Floyd added 33 points and 10 assists.

Salonen drops out of Monte Carlo Rally

MONTE CARLO (R) — Former world champion Timo Salonen of Finland pulled out of the Monte Carlo Rally Monday after finishing way behind the leaders in Sunday's last timed stage.

Salonen, runner-up last year in a Peugeot but driving a Japanese Mazda this time, finished Sunday's fifth stage 47 minutes 40 seconds behind winning team-mate Ingvar Carlsson of Sweden after three enforced stops because of a fault in the cooling system.

The Finnish driver did not join the rest of the 144-strong field for the start of Monday morning's two-day "common stage" from Grenoble.

Salonen had been outpaced in Sunday's opening series of timed sections by the three Lancias of Italy's Massimo Biasion, France's Bruno Saby and Finland's Juha Kankkunen, the reigning world champion.

Frenchman Dany Snobeck also pulled out when the gear-box of his Mercedes broke in Sunday's last timed stage. Swede Stig Blomqvist's four-wheel drive Ford Sierra had earlier lost ground because of transmission problems.

Biasion strengthened his overnight lead when he won Monday's first timed section over 32 kilometres from Saint-Jean-En-Royans, nine seconds ahead of Kankkunen and 32 clear of Saby as Lancia once again claimed top three places.

West German Walter Roehrl, four times winner of the Monte Carlo Rally, had to settle for fourth in his Audi, 42 seconds behind Biasion, with Blomqvist fifth a further 11 seconds adrift.

Arsenal held to

scoreless draw

LONDON (AP) — Coventry City, with a stifling defence led by Brian Kilcline and Trevor Peake, held English First Division leader Arsenal to a 0-0 home draw in a nationally televised match.

While running its unbeaten streak to 21 games, the gunners lost ground to the field of pursuers over the weekend, in which only three First Division matches were played because of the effects of last week's snow and record-breaking cold.

Arsenal gained one point from the draw at Highbury Sunday, for a season total of 52, just two points in front of Everton and seven ahead of defending champion Liverpool, both of which won on Saturday.

Coventry remained in eighth place with 37 points, one point behind idle Tottenham. The visitors have now allowed just 24 goals in as many games this season and held Arsenal to one near-miss, a shot by Paul Davis in the 47th minute that hit the right-hand post and bounced back.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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THE PESSIMISTS PREVAIL

North-South vulnerable North

deals.

NORTH

♠ K 10 3 2

♥ K 8 2

♦ A K Q 7 3

♣ 6

EAST

♠ J 6

♥ 7 J 10 8 5 4

♦ 10 6 2

♣ 9 4

SOUTH

♠ A 5 4

♥ A Q 7 3

♦ J 8 7

♣ J 8 7

The bidding:

North East South West

1♣ Pass 1♥ Dble

2♥ Pass 2♠ Pass

3♥ Pass 4♥ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

When your contract appears

easy, look for the worst possible

scenario. Then take a look to see if

you can develop countermeasures.

Once West made a black-suit

takeout double, North decided

there was no point in showing his

spade suit; instead, he settled for a

heart ruff. South's spade bid was

an attempt to steer the contract

into three no trump if North held a

club guard. When North now

raised spades, South bid the heart

game in case his partner held four-

card heart support. We are im-

pressed with East's decision not to double. He could not be sure four spades wasn't a better contract, and he felt no need to alert South in the fact that trumps were not breaking.

West led the king of clubs and shifted to a trump. Declarer won in dummy and, if trumps were no worse than 4-2, the play would be simple. Declarer can win with dummy's king, cross to hand with the jack of diamonds, ruff a club and draw two more rounds of trumps, leaving a master trump outstanding. Then he could run diamonds, and the most the defenders could get would be two club tricks and a trump.

The threat to the contract, however, lay in the possibility of a 5-1 trump break. Could that be handled?

Declarer found the way. He won the trump on the table, came to hand with the jack of diamonds and ruffed a club. The ace of spades provided the entry for another club ruff. Now declarer started to run diamonds. As the cards lay, the defenders were helpless. East did the best he could by ruffing the third diamond and exiting with a spade. Declarer won in dummy and led a good diamond, discarding his last spade. Whatever the defenders did, East's good trump was the only other trick they could collect.

Argentina wins Pele Cup

SAO PAULO (R) — A goal from

centre forward Dario Felman two minutes into the second half earned Argentina a 1-0 win over Brazil in the final of the Pele Cup veterans' international soccer tournament.

Felman's goal — a gift from Brazilian sweeper Djalma Dias — snatched victory for the Argentines after they had been forced to defend for much of the game on Sunday.

But goalkeeper Carlos Buticce produced an inspired display to deny the Brazilians time and again.

"Argentine soccer is in a state of grace," legendary Brazilian star Pele said as he presented Argentine skipper Miguel Angel Brindisi with the heavy trophy.

"Buticce must have made at least 50 saves, while our goalkeeper had very little work," said Pele, who played only in his nation's first match against Italy.

West German referee Walter Schweiller booked four players — including Felman — in a tense first half.

The Brazilians won a succession of free kicks just outside the Argentine penalty area but failed to convert their territorial advantage into goals. Rivelino saw five of his efforts from set pieces well saved by 44-year-old

Buticce.

Argentina replaced Carlos Babington with Rafael Albrect after 20 minutes — the midfielder having pulled a muscle — and continued to contain the Brazilians until halftime.

But two minutes after the restart, Dias hit a weak backpass to his goalkeeper Renato to present Felman with the chance to break the deadlock. The alert striker rounded Renato with ease before stroking the ball into an empty net.

A goal down, the Brazilians attacked furiously for the remainder of the game but Buticce and the Argentine defence stood firm.

Brazilian captain Rivelino said afterwards: "I played with Buticce at Corinthians and, frankly, I don't remember having seen him play so well as he did today. He beat us by himself."

Argentine coach Carmelo Faraone said his side had not deserved to beat Brazil Sunday but were worthy winners of the first world soccer championship for seniors.

"Brazil were superior today. But no one can forget that we had beaten Brazil before (3-1 last Sunday) and that we scored 10 goals in five matches, an average of two per game," he said.

S. African pulls away to take Houston Marathon

HOUSTON (AP) — Derrick May

of South Africa pulled away from his final challengers in the 24th mile and went on to win the Houston Marathon in 2 hours, 11 minutes, 51 seconds for the biggest payday of his career.

May received \$22,000 for his first major marathon victory. Runner-up Geir Kvernmo of Norway was 15 seconds back in 2:12:06.

Bente Moe of Norway took the lead in the seventh mile and pulled away to win the women's division in 2:32:37. She beat defending

champion Veronique Marot of Britain by exactly three minutes.

May broke out of a pack of five other runners at the 24th mile of the 26-mile, 385-yard race, but wasn't confident of victory until near the end.

"I don't have very good eyesight, so I looked around when I was at 25 miles and no one was there," said May, who had earned \$15,000 for a third-place finish at Pittsburgh last year.

"I looked back again at 26 miles and then I started to feel confident."

Sam Ngatia of Kenya, the runner-up in 1984, finished third in 2:12:23, and former University of Texas-El Paso teammate Alfredo Shahanga of Tanzania was fourth in 2:12:27.

Allan Zachariasen of Norway finished fifth in 2:12:43 and Brian Sheriff of Zimbabwe was sixth in 2:13:40.

Guillermo Yzair of Mexico led for the first 15 miles before fading to eighth in 2:14:25.

Sylvie Bonnet of France was third among the women in 2:37:47 and Evy Palm of the United States was fourth in 2:38:39.

Stars and Stripes earns chance to challenge Australia for America's Cup

FREMANTLE, Australia (AP) — Stars and Stripes claimed its place in the America's Cup finals Monday when it beat New Zealand by one minute, 29 seconds and continued the Americans' drive toward yachting's biggest trophy.

New Zealand hit the buoy on the final rounding while moving to overtake Stars and Stripes and the American boat sped off to the finish line.

Stars and Stripes won the best-of-seven challenger finals 4 to 1 and will face an Australian boat in the final series starting Jan. 31.

In the best-of-nine defender finals, Kookaburra III overcame a broken backstay on the fifth leg and defeated Australia IV by one minute, 13 seconds to go ahead 4 to 0 in their competition.

Both Australian boats flew protest flags.

Stars and Stripes led the challengers' race by 36 seconds after the sixth leg of the eight-leg Indian Ocean course. But the next leg was downwind and New Zealand was close enough to steal the powerful breeze from the leader.

Chris Dickson steered his boat into position to cause the spinnaker on Dennis Conner's Stars and Stripes to flutter toward the end of the seventh leg. Conner's lead was cut to just nine seconds as Dickson appeared ready to round the buoy. Instead, New Zealand banged into the mark. The boat had to re-round the mark and lost all the ground it had gained on that downwind run.

By the time New Zealand could get around the mark again, it was behind by 39 seconds and Conner was home free.

Stars and Stripes had lost the start by one second but charged 42

seconds advantage on the first beat to windward. But on the second beat, a powerful 28-knot wind ripped Conner's Genoa and New Zealand cut the margin to 14 seconds by the end of that leg.

It was down to eight seconds after the first reach, but back up to 16 seconds at the next rounding as New Zealand attempted to change a spinnaker.

In the defenders' race, Kookaburra III's lead was just six seconds after the second leg then it boosted the advantage to 53 seconds on the third leg, heading into the wind, and it never dropped below 50 seconds at any of the remaining marks.

"It's pretty tough to see a dream finished," said Michael Fay, New Zealand's syndicate head.

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China expels top scientist from Communist Party

PEKING (R) — China has expelled top scientist Fang Lizhi for causing last month's national student protests by advocating a Western-style democratic system for China, the official New China News Agency said Monday.

Fang, a 51-year-old scholar who has won numerous international awards, was sacked last week as vice-president of the university in the east China city of Hefei where the demonstrations for more democracy and freedom of speech began.

Fang, hailed by some students as China's equivalent to Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov, is the second party member to be expelled following the protests which also led to the resignation of party chief Hu Yaobang last Friday.

Leading liberal writer Wang Ruowang was expelled last week for advocating Western ideas in his speeches and writings.

The agency said the party decision had listed "facts showing that he is no longer qualified for party membership," including statements by him that Marxist-Leninism was out of date and of no use as a model for China.

The party statement said that besides stirring students to make trouble, Fang — one of the most brilliant scientists of his generation — had also tried to incite intellectuals against the party, causing "grave consequences."

It said he made many public speeches in recent years which advocated bourgeois liberalisation in opposing the

party's four principles of the socialist road, the dictatorship of the proletariat, the party's leadership and Marx-Lenin-Mao thought.

Chinese students had said that besides actively promoting democracy in his own college, Fang made speeches in campuses in Peking and in the eastern cities of Hangzhou and Shanghai, where tens of thousands took to the streets late last month.

The party statement said students in Hefei demonstrated a day after Fang told them: "Democracy is not a favour bestowed from above, and it should be won by people's own efforts."

It also accused of trying to Westernise China completely and quoted him as saying: "I am for the idea that everybody should join the party to change its true colour. I officially declare that I will change the party."

Before his public disgrace, Fang was hailed by an official academic journal as the kind of intellectual China needs and party officials have in the past also cited him as an "exemplary Communist."

Chinese Vice Premier Tian Jiyun said in Tokyo Monday recent student demonstrations in his country will have no effect on Peking's basic policies, a spokesman for Japan's most

powerful economic organisation said.

Mr. Tian, on the second day of a 10-day official visit to Japan, told economic leaders China would continue its "open-door" external policy and modernisation of agriculture, industry, defence and technology, the spokesman for Keidanren — the Federation of Economic Organisations told Reuters.

Mr. Tian made no direct reference to the sudden removal of Mr. Hu Yaobang as Communist Party leader last week, but he said that less than 20,000 of China's two million students had staged demonstrations.

Meanwhile East European sources said Monday Hu was forced to resign in disgrace because he had actively worked against the policies of top leader Deng Xiaoping.

The sources said the new party chief Zhao Ziyang told a visiting Hungarian delegation Sunday that Hu had committed serious errors of ideology and policy which went against the decisions of the party meeting in December 1978 at which Mr. Deng returned to power.

Mr. ZL'o said the nationwide demonstrations last month by students calling for more democracy had convinced the party leadership that Hu had to be removed from office.

The 1978 party meeting, the third plenum of the 11th party congress, approved the wide-ranging reform programme which Mr. Deng has since been pushing through.

6 hurt in Brisbane mailroom blast

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — A package exploded Monday at a mail sorting office and injured six people. An anti-Turkish group claimed responsibility, but police said firecrackers may have gone off accidentally.

The explosion ripped through the Roma Street Mail Exchange at 11:30 a.m., destroying the ground floor, just as sorter Frank Rich placed a large parcel on his desk for examination.

Rich, who was working on overseas parcels in the exchange's customs section, was reported in critical condition at the Royal Brisbane Hospital. Five other workers received minor injuries.

An Australian Post spokesman said there might have been more casualties had the explosion not occurred as shifts changed.

Customs officer Robert Shackleford said he was upstairs when the explosion occurred.

"I was lifted about six inches off my feet. We thought a piece of the mail machinery had exploded and saw smoke coming through the floor," he said. "The air was thick with smoke and the smell of gunpowder."

"People were smashing windows trying to get out," he said.

Police said it may have been a suitcase that exploded.

The building was cordoned off while police and army bomb disposal units checked the building for additional explosives. They exploded another suitcase in a pile of parcels to be processed, but found only clothes inside.

An anonymous telephone caller to the Associated Press in Sydney claimed responsibility on behalf of the Greek-Armenian-Bulgarian Front.

"We are against the growing ties between Australia and Turkey," the man said, and threatened more bombings.

Police said they took the claim seriously but also were working on a theory that firecrackers sent from overseas to celebrate the Chinese New Year may have exploded accidentally.

Pakistan denies Indian report of troop buildup

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's Armed Forces Monday denied an Indian report that they were massing troops along the frontier between the two rival countries.

"This is all false," Chief Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Siddiq Salik told Reuters.

He reiterated charges first made in November that India had concentrated forces along the 3,000 kilometre border, saying all but two divisions of its army were facing Pakistan.

The two countries, which have fought three wars since independence from Britain in 1947, have running disputes over several issues and often swap charges of aggressive intentions.

The Press Trust of India (PTI), which often reflects the New Delhi government's view on sensitive issues, said Sunday that Islamabad had stationed 14 of its 17 divisions along the border.

It had brought forward extra supplies of ammunition, mines, tanks and guns, called up 10,000 reservists and postponed all leave, PTI said. The Indian Defence Ministry declined to comment.

A Western military expert in Islamabad dismissed the PTI charge as "baloney" and said he had seen no evidence to support the allegations.

Pakistan had been carrying out

its normal winter exercises, many of which were held in the border region, but these were mostly over last month, the expert said.

Brig. Salik said the Pakistani Foreign and Defence ministries were considering issuing a formal contradiction of the Indian report. "We are not reacting to the Indian concentration."

He said that apart from two divisions facing China on India's north-eastern frontier, the entire Indian army was deployed along the Pakistani border, which runs from the Arabian Sea to the heights of the Himalayas.

The Indian army has some 960,000 men compared to Pakistan's 450,000 soldiers, according to estimates of the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies.

Pakistan voiced fears about alleged Indian troop concentrations in November. President and Armed Forces Chief Mohammad Zia Ul Haq said in a newspaper interview that about 14 divisions, the equivalent of the entire Pakistani army, were grouped in India's Rajasthan state.

But he said Pakistan would not be provoked into taking military counter-measures as it was on a "peace offensive" towards its giant neighbour.

Sikh gunmen kill Gandhi party leader in Punjab

NEW DELHI (T) — Suspected Sikh extremists shot dead a former Punjab Minister and his bodyguard in the north Indian state this morning, police said.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said four gunmen escaped in a white car after killing Joginder Pal Pandey and bodyguard Sohan Lal, both Hindus, in Punjab's Ludhiana industrial city.

An indefinite curfew was imposed on the city following the incident to prevent an outbreak of communal violence, police told Reuters in Chandigarh, Punjab's capital.

Ludhiana has a mixed Hindu-Sikh population. Police said extremists opened fire on Pandey and Lal as they were waiting near a filling station to put petrol in their car.

Pandey, 60, was a widely respected political leader and had been Punjab general-secretary of India's ruling Congress I Party, police said.

He served for more than eight years as a minister holding the

portfolios of health, Public works and transportation in the previous Congress (I) government in the state, police said.

The latest killing raised the death toll in extremist related violence to 37 this year in Punjab, where militant Sikhs are battling for an independent homeland.

Unofficial figures put the death toll last year at 697. Most of India's 16 million Sikhs live in Punjab.

Police and paramilitary troops stormed the Golden Temple complex in Punjab's Amritsar city on Saturday night and arrested six suspected extremists and detained 54 others, police said.

Police officials defended the action to enter the Sikhs' holiest shrine, saying they had information that two extremists, sought by them, were being tortured by a rival group hiding in the complex.

But police entry into the temple brought strong protests from Sikh religious leaders who described the action as "state terrorism."

Pravda editor criticises Soviet emigration policy

MOSCOW (R) — Pravda editor-in-chief Viktor Afanasyev criticised Soviet emigration policy Monday, saying that delays in processing requests for exit visas were creating negative publicity for Moscow in the West.

His comments in the Communist Party newspaper were a rare case of public treatment of a highly sensitive topic in the Soviet Union, taking the Kremlin's campaign for greater frankness into the previously untouched area of human rights.

Afanasyev, who is a member of the Communist Party Central Committee and holds other official positions as well as running Pravda, made the remarks in a commentary on his recent visit to Canada.

He said a number of human rights issues, including the situation of Soviet Jews, were

raised during a sharp two-hour discussion with about 20 Canadian members of parliament.

"It seems to us that all is not right here," Afanasyev said in reference to emigration policy. "Bureaucratic behaviour has penetrated here as well. Questions are not always resolved smoothly and quickly."

"We are dragging out, dragging out decisions about the departure of a dissident. The Western press raises a big anti-Soviet fuss."

Referring indirectly to a new law on emigration that took effect on Jan. 1 this year, Afanasyev said he had explained the meaning of changes regarding Soviet exit policy.

"Everything will be simpler and quicker," he said, adding that this meant people who wanted to leave would not have time "to become great."

Publishers, editors to set up fund to fight censorship

LONDON (R) — Media publishers and editors from 39 countries have agreed to create a fund to challenge censorship in court and to set up a hot line to help journalists subjected to harassment.

The agreement was reached at the end of a two-day meeting in London which discussed ways of combating press censorship around the world and of helping those in jail or in trouble because of their reporting.

The conference, the first of its kind devoted entirely to problems of censorship, was sponsored by the World Press Freedom Committee, which groups 32 news organisations in five continents.

Participants backed a final declaration condemning what it called the growing use of force by governments and criminal forces seeking to intimidate the news media.

"In a world that is becoming increasingly one through new communications technologies, press freedom is indivisible," it said.

"When censorship applies anywhere, it restricts access of the public everywhere to full knowledge of events. We intend by this meeting to help create an

atmosphere in which censorship is recognised for what it is — a denial of human rights."

The document, called the Declaration of London, said borders should be open to foreign journalists to travel freely in each country and have access to official and unofficial news sources.

The resolution called for the "creation of a fund against censorship" to support legal challenges to censorship measures, and to other abuses of press freedom.

It said a censorship hot line should be established as a clearing house for complaints by journalists subjected to direct or indirect censorship.

"This contact mechanism should be used by them in seeking assistance and advice, and would help in focusing international publicity on the abuses to which they have been subjected," it said.

Delegates pledged to keep up the fight against censors by compiling lists of governments that muzzled the press.

The declaration supported the idea of sending fact-finding missions to countries with strict press regulations and said the first of these would try to visit South Africa.

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Heart disease kills more in U.S.

MONTEREY, California (AP) — Heart and circulatory diseases will kill almost 1 million Americans this year as the cost of the nation's major cause of death rises to \$85.2 billion, the American Heart Association has said. Nearly 540,000 of the deaths will occur among 1.5 million heart attack victims, the non-profit group said in releasing its statistical outlook for the year, published in the booklet, "1987 Heart Facts." Because the average heart attack victim waits three hours before seeking help, about 350,000 of them will die before reaching a hospital, the association said.

Fossil of pterodactyl found in N. Korea

TOKYO (R) — A fossilised tailed pterodactyl estimated to be 150 million years old has been found in North Korea, the North Korean central news agency reported. The fossil, discovered 40 metres underground in Sinuiju on the west coast, is the first of its kind found in Asia, it said. "The length of its body is short and tail is long. The head is short and high, and the hind legs are very long, the paws being like those of beasts of prey." The agency gave details of its wing structure which it said "proves that pterodactyls lived in our country much longer than those found in other areas."

40% of crimes committed by strangers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fewer than half of the 20 million violent crimes in the United States from 1982 through 1984 were by people who were total strangers to the victims, according to a federal study released recently. The survey of 58,000 households conducted twice a year by the Census Bureau found that 46 per cent of robberies, rapes and assaults, including homicides, were committed by people whom the victims did not know, even by sight. "It is often said that the fear of crime is largely a fear of strangers," according to a statement of Steven R. Schlesinger, director of the bureau of justice statistics which issued the report.

Cities to fight crime in Colombia

BOGOTA (R) — Colombian President Virgilio Barco said his government has allowed cities and towns to set up civilian brigades to fight crime. Barco said the uniformed guards, made up of selected high school graduates and unemployed youths, will receive special training from the national police. The plan is part of wide-ranging decentralisation reforms that Barco explained during a radio and television address. He said the reforms are aimed at giving more power to local town councils. Colombia is plagued by drug-related crime and guerrilla and street violence. About 10,000 murders are reported each year.

Army fights train rats in China

PEKING (R) — Train passengers in China will no longer have to worry about their toes being nibbled by rats — thanks to a new poison developed by Chinese army doctors. The official New China News Agency has said nearly all China's trains were now rat-free because army doctors had found a super-effective poison to kill the rodents. "China's passenger trains transport one billion people every year and provide abundant food for rats," the agency said, adding that half of the country's trains had been infested with rats which had become immune to normal poisons.

Bangladesh to hang smugglers

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — The government has said it has decided to institute the death penalty for convicted smugglers. Officials at the president's house told the Associated Press that a cabinet meeting, chaired by President Hussain Muhammad Ershad, agreed to upgrade the maximum penalty for smuggling from seven years' hard labour to death. The minimum punishment will be a two-year jail term, they said. The government recently launched an extensive anti-smuggling campaign and reports that cheap Indian textiles and consumer goods and Japanese electronics, alcohol and cigarettes have flooded the market. The country's nearly 4,000-square kilometre border with India and Burma is virtually open, with only a few thousand security officers guarding it.

Faith healer faces charges

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe (AP) — A traditional healer faces a disciplinary committee for allegedly selling secret cures to foreign companies, the Zimbabwe Inter-African news agency has reported. Professor Gordon Chavunduka told some 500 members of the government-recognised Zimbabwe National Traditional Healers Association (ZINATHA) the action was taken after Prime Minister Robert Mugabe raised complaints about "certain malpractices" by native healers. Chavunduka told the N'Gangas, or "witchdoctors" as they are known in the West, that Barbara Sibanda and her company had sold secret cures and treatments to researchers from countries as far away as Britain, Sweden and the United States.

Murder collection goes on auction

LONDON (AP) — An array of murder weapons collected by one of Britain's most celebrated trial lawyers goes on auction Friday. The "black museum" of Sir Edward Marshall Hall contains mementoes he collected from his most famous cases — revolvers, ammunition, daggers and other lethal bric-a-brac. Auctioneers Christie's have said they expected the sale to raise up to 1,200 pounds (\$1,800). Hall, who died in 1927 aged 69, belonged to a tradition of flamboyant barristers in the 1920s, when hangings were frequent and the defendant's fate hung largely on the passion of his attorney's closing speech to the jury.

Man kills family, self fearing AIDS

VERONA, Italy (AP) — A man police say he killed his wife, young son and himself left a letter saying he feared he had AIDS, the Italian news agency ANSA reported. Police in Verona were quoted as saying there was no medical documentation that the man actually had Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. ANSA said the man, identified as Bruno Anselmi, left a letter saying he had learned about the symptoms from watching a television show on the subject and thought he had the disease.

Al Ahram launches N. American edition

CAIRO (R) — The authoritative Cairo daily newspaper Al Ahram went on sale Monday in several U.S. and Canadian cities in a new North American edition. Executives said the 111-year-old newspaper printed 5,000 copies in a Long Island plant for circulation in North America at one U.S. dollar per copy. The daily, which often reflects official Egyptian policy, already has some 600 subscribers in North America and hopes to increase sales among an estimated two million Arabs or citizens of Arab origin in the United States and Canada. In mid 1984, Al Ahram started an international edition published in London, but it does not reach North American subscribers on the day of issue. The paper is now printed simultaneously in Cairo, London and New York via satellite links.



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2	Bahrain, Egypt, Lebanon, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, U.A.E., Yemen A.R.	—	450	—	315
3	Algeria, Djibouti, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Somali, Sudan, Tunisia, Yemen D.R.	—	600	—	420
4	Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany D.R., Germany, F.R., Greece, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, U.K., Yugoslavia	1	—	—	700
5	Albania, Azores Island, Canary Islands, Feroe Island, Gibraltar, Greenland, Iceland	1	200	—	840
6	Canada, U.S.A.	1	250	—	875
7	Rest of the World	1	500	1	050

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